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# HOW WE ARE GOVERNED IN VIRGINIA

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THE CAPITOL OF VIRGINIA

# HOW WE ARE GOVERNED IN VIRGINIA

BY

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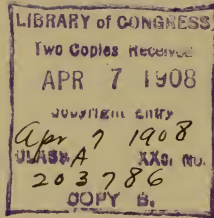
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## PREFACE

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In the preparation of this brief text to meet the needs of pupils in the schools of Virginia at the sixth or seventh year of their work, the author has been inspired by a two-fold purpose.

In the first place he has long held the opinion that the elementary teaching of so-called "civil government" will always be a bugbear and a failure unless its chief purpose is to relate the child in an intimate and personal way to the activities of government. To the average pupil of less than high school age the powers and the functions of the state auditor or the organization of, and procedure in, the civil courts of the state are very dry subjects indeed, and very naturally so. But if he lives in a city, he probably takes a lively interest in the fire department, in the police, in the many things the city undertakes to do for the health of the community—things, such as a sewerage system, which he knows about but has perhaps never thought to ascribe to the government. Or if he lives in the country, he is doubtless vitally interested in what his county is doing to improve roads or to consolidate schools. It has been the conscious purpose of the author in the first half of this book to make the child *see* the government as a real, active thing about him, a thing of which he is a part.

It is only after the pupil's interest has been thoroughly aroused to note the many operations of the government that the effort is made in the latter half of the book to show him how the government is supported, organized and operated. This is done in as simple language as possible.

Here, too, the child mind has been kept constantly in view, and emphasis has been laid upon the actual operation of the machinery of government rather than upon elaborate details of its organization.

To each chapter are appended questions to be used for discussion in class. For the most part they aim to localize the text, to draw the pupil's attention to conditions in his own community and their bearing on what he has been reading, to create a spirit of inquiry and investigation.

This setting up of a definite relation between the child's life within the school and the political activities of community life about him is in harmony with the fundamental principles of modern educational aims. School life must more and more reflect and embody community life. And the author believes that this is especially true in the teaching of government, if we are to instill any principles of good citizenship into the minds and hearts of that vast majority of our children who leave school before reaching the high school age.

The author desires to express a grateful sense of obligation to Doctor J. A. C. Chandler, Editor of the Virginia Journal of Education, and to Mr. Lee Bidgood, Professor of History and Government in the Virginia Female Normal School, both of whom have read the entire proofs and have made many helpful suggestions; and especially to Miss Edith A. Winship, of Boston, for invaluable editorial assistance.

HOWARD LEE MCBAIN.

*The George Washington University,  
Washington, D. C.*

## FOREWORD TO THE TEACHER

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In presenting a civil government text drawn along such wholly new lines, the author feels that a word of suggestion to the teacher may not be inappropriate. Teachers will probably agree that the subject is inherently difficult to teach in the grammar grades. But a subject is not usually difficult to teach if the pupil is interested. The arousing in the pupil's mind of a spirit of interested inquiry in the affairs of government is of far greater value to him than the knowledge of many unimportant details of governmental organization. Formal question-and-answer recitations should, therefore, be used sparingly. Informal and spontaneous discussions of the text and of the questions appended will prove far more successful in the class-room. It is of transcending importance, however, that the teacher first of all be thoroughly familiar with the spirit, the purpose, and scope of the work.

It may be impossible in some cases to answer the localized questions suggested, but a question which cannot be answered, or which can be answered only partially is not necessarily without value. It may create both interest and investigation. The teacher should encourage the pupils to study the questions and to gather all possible information in regard to them from their parents and others in the community who would be likely to know. The real essence our teaching should be the creation of this interested attitude of mind toward things political.

The author has not felt that it was either necessary or desirable to append to this work the text of the Virginia

Constitution. Our State Constitution has become so detailed and complicated and has grown to such enormous length that for the purposes of an immature pupil it is of small value. For personal reference it would perhaps be well for the teacher to have a desk copy of the Constitution, which can be secured from the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth at Richmond.

H. L. McB.



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# HOW WE ARE GOVERNED IN VIRGINIA

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## CHAPTER I

### WHAT WE MEAN BY LIFE IN A COMMUNITY

1. **What a community is.** Most of you have doubtless read the fascinating story of Robinson Crusoe. You remember how, after being shipwrecked, he was thrown upon a deserted island, and there lived for a time separated from all other human beings. Most of you have heard, too, of hermits—those strange men who withdraw themselves from their fellowmen and live in loneliness and solitude. Moved by some odd fancy, they usually seek out a cave or a rude hut in the mountains, and there, far away from other people, spend their miserable lives.

How very different are the lives of most of us! We are so accustomed to having our family, our friends, and many other people about us that we can only with difficulty imagine how anybody could tolerate so lonely a life. People are usually found living together in groups; indeed this seems to be the natural way for them to live. Sometimes, as in a city, a great many people are crowded together in a comparatively small space. Sometimes we find them in small towns and villages. In Virginia, however, a majority of the people live on farms. Yet they are close

enough to one another to enjoy life together and to have many interests in common. They have, for instance, common churches, common schools, common stores, common post-offices.

Now this is what we mean when we say that people live in *communities*. A community is a group of people living more or less closely together and having certain common interests. It may be a village or a town, a county or a city.

**2. Why people live in community groups.** The world is probably not large enough for every one of us to live like a hermit, completely separated from everybody else. Even if it were, most of us would not care for such a life. We enjoy being with people. We love to associate with the members of our family, our friends, and acquaintances. This is one of the reasons, then, why we nearly always find people living in community groups. But it is not the only reason.

You doubtless recall what a hard time Robinson Crusoe found in providing himself with such simple necessities as food and fire and clothing. This was because he was living entirely alone.

Suppose whenever one of us needed a new coat it were necessary for us to raise and shear the sheep, prepare the wool, weave it into cloth, and then cut and make the coat. What an endless amount of trouble, and what a poor looking coat we should have when it was finished! As things are, one group of men raise the sheep, another group prepare and dye the wool, and still another group weave the wool into cloth. This cloth is carried to stores, where it is bought by tailors who make it into coats. When you or I desire a coat, we seldom think of sheep or wool or cloth. We go either to a tailor or to a shop where we can buy a

coat ready to be worn. Think how many different men have had a share in the making of the coat you wear.

You can readily see from this illustration that our wants can be supplied much more easily when we live near other people than they could if we lived alone. This, then, is another reason why we live in communities.

Have you ever stopped to think how many desires most of us have? All day long in one way or another we are busy satisfying our own desires, or else helping other people to satisfy theirs. Of course it is impossible for us to enumerate all the desires that any one person has; but there are a few which nearly everybody has. Let us see what some of these common desires are.

**3. Our desire for life and health.** To most of us life is the most precious thing that we possess. A man will sometimes sacrifice his life for his honor, or for his country's honor, or for some one whom he loves. In general, however, he will sacrifice other things to preserve his life. In many ways we seek to protect our lives. We must protect them, in the first place, against the violence of others, and in the second place, against dangers such as result from fires, from accidents on the railroad or on the water, and in cities from the dangers of the streets. It is necessary for us also to use the proper precautions against disease. This indicates another of our desires—the desire for good health, which is closely akin to the desire for life. Most of us want a sound body, not only because it promises to prolong life, but because a healthy body is essential to our general well-being and happiness.

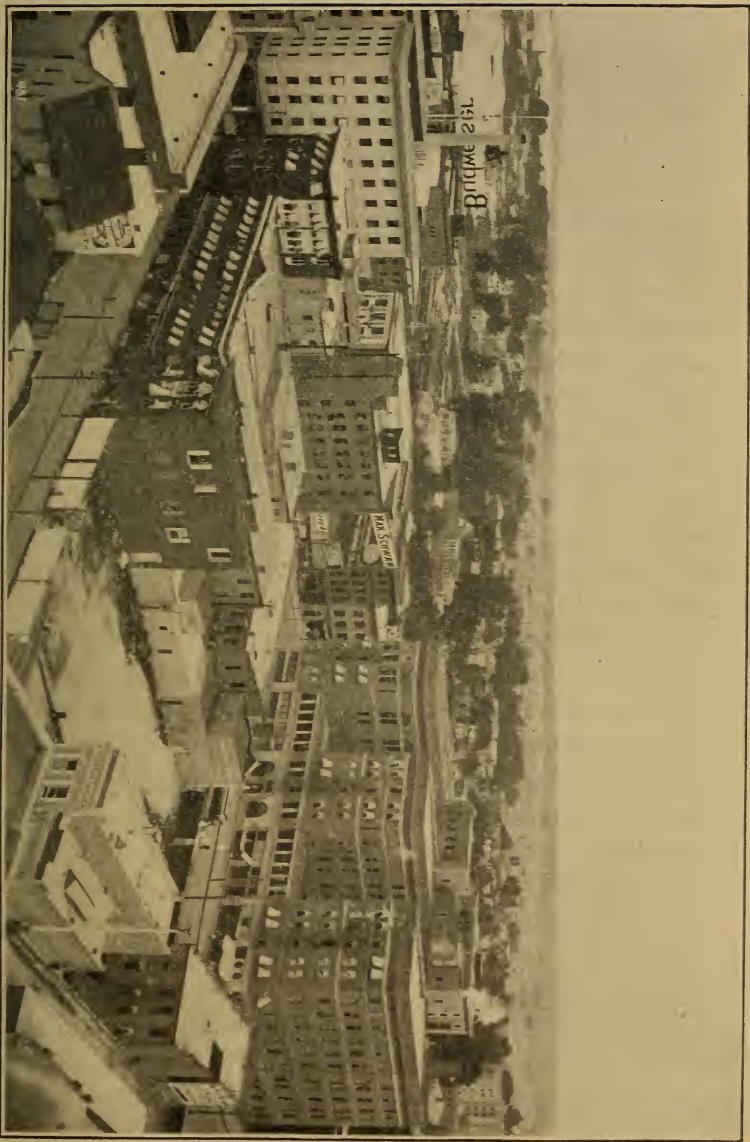
**4. Our desire for liberty.** No man who lives in a community can enjoy liberty without restraint. Robinson Crusoe could, indeed, have yielded to the wildest desire that might cross his fancy. There was no one to prevent

his doing anything he wished. But the average man must live in his community with some regard to his fellowmen. He cannot wholly ignore the rights of others. By liberty in a community, therefore, we mean the freedom to do what we please so long as we do not come in conflict with the rights of other people. We are, of course, absolutely free to *think* what we please, but in our *actions* we must be considerate of others. Most of us are entirely willing, if it is necessary, to give up a part of our liberty of action in order that we may enjoy the other benefits of life in a community.

**5. Our desire for wealth.** It is natural for everybody to want to possess something. Boys and girls like to own things, and men and women enjoy no less the pleasure of possession. Lands, houses, implements, cattle, horses, furniture, clothes, books, money—all these are things which most of us desire to own. These we call *property*. Men seek to obtain property not only for the pleasure of possessing it but because of what it enables them to do. The ownership of property brings comforts and luxuries, and makes it possible also for a man to secure more property. It is this desire for wealth and property that causes men to seek employment—to become doctors, lawyers, farmers, manufacturers, shop-keepers.

**6. Our desire for knowledge.** Most of us crave to know things. This is an instinct that we have all noticed in very young children when they begin to ask questions and inquire into things. When they grow older they are sent to school in order that they may learn many things while they are young. But we want to know more than what we can get out of books. We are interested in learning what is going on both in our own community and in other communities. We need, therefore, newspapers, letters, telephones,





A CITY COMMUNITY  
Birds-eye View of Norfolk, Virginia

and telegrams. By these means we satisfy our desire to know what is going on in the world. And our desire for knowledge helps us to attain many other desires. It also helps the community in which we live, for we cannot imagine anything more pitiful than a community in which nobody has any education and nobody desires it.

**7. Our desire for progress.** Most men desire to see the community in which they live become progressive. Of course this desire for progress takes many forms; it would be impossible to mention all of them. The desire for education, of which we have just spoken, might be included as a part of our general desire for progress. The wish to see good roads, strong bridges, and efficient railroads in our community; if we live near the water, the wish to have harbors dredged, lighthouses built; if we live in a city, the wish to see beautiful buildings, gardens and parks, clean and well-paved streets—these are some of the evidences of our desire for community progress.

**8. Our desire for happiness.** All these other desires that we have been discussing combine to constitute what is our chief desire, next to the preservation of our life and health—the desire for happiness. It may not be possible for us to define what this desire for happiness is. It varies in different individuals. Some find happiness by pursuing almost exclusively one thing, as the desire for wealth, or for knowledge, or for science, or for art; but the majority of us find happiness by pursuing a combination of many desires.

**9. The conflict of desires.** When people live together in a community, it is very natural that their desires should sometimes conflict. In his desire for wealth a man may seize another's property, or he may commit acts injurious to the general health of the community, or offensive to



other people's ideas of cleanliness and beauty. For instance, a man may maintain a factory in a part of the community where the smoke is annoying; or the factory itself may endanger the lives or the health of operators by reason of unsanitary conditions. In his desire for unrestrained liberty a man may, in a passion, take the life of his fellowman, or burn his dwelling. Or again, in the pursuit of knowledge or science men may neglect their business and make debts which they are unable to pay.

It must be clear to you that in these cases the desire of one individual of the community conflicts with the rights or desires of other individuals. It is perhaps equally clear that there must be some means for preventing the rights of one man from being interfered with by the desires of another. There must be rules which the members of the community are forced to obey. There must be some peaceful way of settling disputes among them, and of securing justice to all. Not only that, but there ought also to be some means by which the members of a community are helped to attain various desires which they are unable to satisfy alone. They should be helped, for instance, in the protection of their lives and health, and in satisfying their desires for education and for progress.

**10. What the Government is.** What is the means by which this harmony and assistance are secured? In the first place, there must be rules of conduct which the individual must obey—things that he must do and things that he must not do. For example, all communities command that each man shall respect the lives and property of every other man; and the community will punish any one who violates this command. These rules for the conduct of the people of the community we call *laws*.

In addition to the laws, there must be officers who make

the laws and others who see that they are enforced. For instance, in your own neighborhood there are perhaps a board of supervisors, a sheriff, a constable, a justice of the peace. Or if you live in a city, there are a mayor, a city council, a body of police, and many other officers.

This body of laws and those who make and enforce them are what we generally mean when we speak of the *Government*.

You must bear in mind that the Government is established in order to help the people living in a community. Some people have the idea that the Government deprives us of our liberty. We are perhaps inclined to feel this way when we come in contact with some particular law that prevents us from doing what we wish to do, or forces us to do what we dislike to do. There was a time, indeed, when the Government did trample upon the people's liberty, and in some countries this is done even to-day. You will recall that the reason why our forefathers freed themselves from Great Britain was that the mother country tried to oppress the colonies and to interfere with what they regarded as their liberties. For the most part, however, it is the Government that seeks to protect our liberties from being interfered with by others, as when the Government arrests the thief who attempts to steal from us. The people of Virginia have declared that "Government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, the nation, or the community." Not only does the Government protect our liberties, but it also undertakes, as we shall see, to assist us in reaching certain of our desires and to add to our general welfare and happiness.

**11. Our method of study.** In the next few chapters we shall see some of the things that the Government in the

communities of Virginia does for us in the way of protecting our life and liberty, and helping us to attain certain of our desires. (Chapters II to VI.)

After we have seen something of what the Government does for us, we shall then be able to understand more clearly how the Government of our State is organized and operated, or in other words, how all these things are accomplished. (Chapters VII to XVII.)

### QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

**To the Teacher.** The questions appended to each chapter are for the purpose of drawing out the pupil's interest in activities of government with which he is more or less familiar. These activities are, of course, more prominent in city communities than they are in the rural districts. The teachers of rural schools should, therefore, explain many of the city activities referred to. The questions are intended to be suggestive, not exhaustive. Many others will doubtless present themselves to the teacher.

1. What sort of community do you live in—county, town, village, city? Find out, if you can, how many people live in your community. In your neighborhood are the houses close together or far apart? Think of some of the ways in which you associate with the people of your community—when and where, for instance, do you meet them?

2. What are some of the pleasures you enjoy now that you would not enjoy if you lived like a hermit?

3. If you lived absolutely alone, how would you get your food? Your clothing? Furniture? How would you protect yourself from cold? What, then, are some of the advantages that you enjoy by living in a community?

4. What are some of the things that threaten people's lives in your community? Their health? Can you think of anything that is done to protect you from these dangers?

5. Mention some of the restrictions upon your liberty in the schoolroom—what are some of the things that you are not permitted to do? Explain how these things would interfere with the rights of others. Why are you forced to consider the rights of others? Why are they forced to consider your rights?

6. Mention some of the property that you possess in the school-room. How does this property help you? Mention some of the property owned by the school. How does this property assist you?

7. Is money property? Why? What business is your father engaged in? Why does he engage in business? Mention some of the property in your home. To whom does it belong? How was he enabled to get it?

8. Why do you attend school? What desire are you satisfying? Mention some of the ways by which you find out what is going on in the world.

9. Who makes the rules of your school? Who enforces them? Could you speak of the *Government* of your school? What would you mean?

10. What do you mean by the Government of a community? Why is it necessary? Mention all the laws of your community that you have ever heard of. Mention all the officers that you can think of.

## CHAPTER II

### WHAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES TO PROTECT OUR LIVES AND HEALTH

**12. Our personal responsibility.** We have seen that among all the desires that men usually have there is none more powerful than the desire for life. Now in most cases, as you all know, it is we ourselves who are personally responsible for the preservation of our own life and health. If we would keep our bodies in healthful condition, we must be mindful of the ordinary laws of health. We must take due precaution against disease. We must have plenty of fresh air and exercise. Moreover, we must refrain from recklessly running into dangers that we could avoid.

In the care of our health the family also is to some extent responsible. The home should be selected in a healthful location. It should be well ventilated, and the plumbing should be good. The housekeeper, too, should be careful of cleanliness. It is the duty of the family within their means to see that the home is maintained in such a manner as to insure the health of those who live in it.

In many cases, however, neither the individual nor the family can ward off the dangers which sometimes threaten life and health. It is here that the Government steps in to assist us. Especially is this true in communities where a large number of people live together as they do in cities, for in such communities the dangers to life and health are far more numerous than they are in the country districts.



**13. Protection of life against personal attacks.** One person is sometimes attacked by another because of some personal grievance. The Government of course makes such an attack unlawful and provides for the arrest and punishment of the offender. Special officers are appointed to protect the members of the community against such attacks upon their lives. In the counties we find constables and sheriffs, and in the cities there are police, whose duty it is not only to prevent such attacks whenever possible, but to seek out and arrest those who have been guilty of them. The Government also makes it unlawful for one man to threaten the life of another even though he may not actually make an attack upon him.

Now you may ask: "How does this protect our lives? It rarely happens that an officer of the law is on hand to prevent an attack which is about to be made. May not a man's life be taken before the law can protect him?" You must remember, however, that in every case the one who breaks the law knows that in all probability he will be arrested and punished. It is the fear of this punishment that prevents him from any rashness to which his impulses or his violent temper may prompt him.

In spite of this fear of punishment for his misdeeds, a man fails sometimes to control his anger. He makes a sudden attack upon another individual who has offended him. There is no time or opportunity to call upon the police or the constable. The one who is attacked must act for himself. In such cases the law provides that the person attacked may defend himself. He may even take the life of the one who has attacked him if that becomes necessary in order to preserve his own life. He may afterwards be arrested and tried, under such circumstances, for having killed his fellowman, but if he is able to show that he was

compelled to do this in order to protect his own life, he is freed from all responsibility.

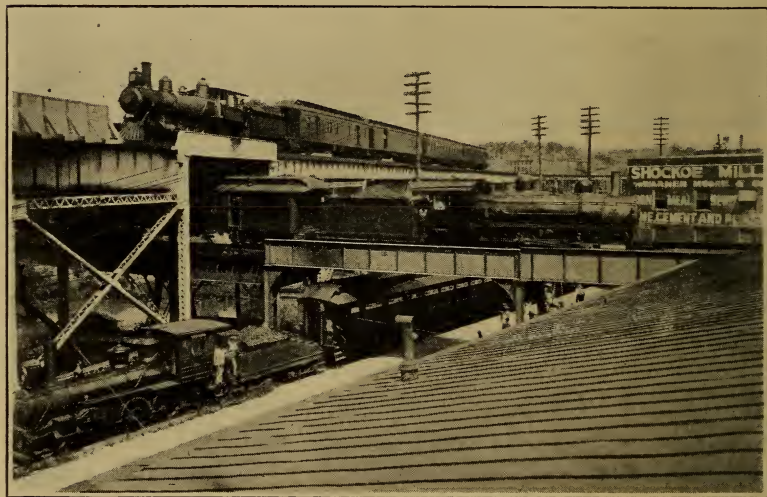
Protection is given also to a person accused of crime. When an individual is arrested for an offense which he is supposed to have committed, it may not always be certain that he is actually guilty. The law assumes that every man is innocent until it has been proved that he is guilty. It says too that "no man shall be deprived of his life or liberty, save by the law of the land, or the judgment of his peers." The accused must be given, therefore, a fair trial in accordance with the law; and the law lays down certain things which are necessary to make the trial a fair one. In the first place, the prisoner cannot be kept in jail indefinitely awaiting his trial. He has the right to demand that he be carried immediately before some officer of the law, and that he be shown the reason for his being kept in prison. If it appears that there is reasonable ground for suspecting him, he is then held until he can be brought forward for trial.

When the law says that he can be deprived of his life only by "the judgment of his peers," it means to grant the individual what is ordinarily called the *right of trial by jury*. This is the right to have a number of his fellow citizens, usually twelve, determine whether he is or is not guilty of the offense of which he is accused. Those who are called to tell what they know about the circumstances of his case are known as *witnesses*. The law gives the prisoner the right to have these witnesses stand before him and tell what they know in his presence. He has the right also to bring witnesses of his own.

These are only a few of the many provisions which the law makes for the protection of the life and liberty of those unfortunate individuals who are accused of crime. But you can easily see how important they are. Without

them cases would arise every day in which the innocent would be made to suffer unjustly.

**14. Protection of life against accident: in the country.** Many accidents happen to most of us in the course of a lifetime. For some of these we have to thank only our own carelessness. The Government cannot usually be expected to protect us from accidents that result from run-



A TRIPLE RAILROAD CROSSING

This unusual and costly method of preventing accidents is employed at a point where three different railroads cross in the city of Richmond, Virginia.

aways, falling, and drowning. These are dangers from which we must protect ourselves. In some ways, however, the Government does seek to protect us from accident. You of course know that it is the custom in your community for drivers to keep to the right of the road. You may not know, however, that the Government actually re-



quires this by law in order that accidents may be prevented. Another protection which the Government affords is that against railroads. To avoid collisions the Government regulates the manner in which one railroad shall cross another. The railway companies are required to place signals and sometimes gates where the tracks cross a country road or a village street. Sometimes the railroad is even compelled to fence its tracks. It is customary also to regulate the speed of trains when they pass points at which accidents are liable to occur. Moreover the Government makes the railroads responsible for injuries done to employees. This is a most important protection, for railroads employ many hundreds of workmen, and the operations in which these workmen are engaged are necessarily of a dangerous character. Similar responsibility is placed upon other companies employing large numbers of workmen.

**15. Protection of life against accident: on the water.** The Government also makes many laws to protect the lives of those who spend much of their time upon the water. It regulates, for instance, the manner in which boats shall pass each other; it provides that they shall signal each other by whistling and requires that they shall carry certain lights at night. On the seacoast where there is danger of shipwreck, the Government erects lighthouses to warn the seaman of his danger and provides life-saving stations, with crews of sturdy men ready at any time to assist vessels in distress.

**16. Protection of life against accident: in the city.** It is easy to see why the liability to accident should be much greater in the city than it is in the country. Where so many people are gathered together in one place, where the buildings are large and crowded close to one another,

where everybody must of necessity pass through the streets filled with rapidly moving street cars and vehicles of all kinds, it is natural enough that dangers of one kind or another should frequently arise. It is in the cities, therefore, that the Government is forced to provide most often for our protection against accident.



THE LIGHTHOUSES AT CAPE HENRY

In the centre of the picture stands the new tower, the light from which may be seen many miles out at sea. To the left the apparatus of the United States wireless telegraph station is shown.

One of the dangers which constantly threaten people living in cities is that which results from fires. The Government seeks to lessen this danger by providing that large buildings shall have fire-escapes in order that the occupants of the building, in case of fire, may be able to reach the ground. In public buildings, like theatres, where large numbers of people come together, it is required that a sufficient number of exits shall be provided so that the people may quickly gain the streets in time of danger. In

many places the children in school are required to practice fire drills, in order that, whenever it is necessary, they can be taken from the school building rapidly and without confusion.

Other protections, too, are given to buildings. Elevators are inspected to see that their machinery is in proper order. Inspectors are appointed to see that buildings being erected in the city are sufficiently well built to prevent collapses, such as have sometimes occurred.

In the streets the attempt is made to regulate the speed of street cars, automobiles, and horses, in order that accidents may be prevented. Excavations and obstructions, which are sometimes of necessity placed in the streets, have to be marked by lights at night. And not the least of the means employed by the Government to prevent accident is the provision of lighting the streets at night by gas or electricity. Thus you see that in many, many ways the Government throws out its strong arms to protect us from accidents over which we ourselves could have no control.

In addition to all these precautions that are taken to prevent accidents, most cities provide means for the immediate treatment of those who are injured. Ambulances in charge of skilled surgeons stand ready to hasten to any part of the city where an accident has occurred. There is usually a public hospital also where sick and injured persons who are unable to pay may receive treatment at the expense of the Government.

**17. Protection of the poor.** In still another way does the Government throw its protection around the life of the individual. When a man's health and strength have failed, when he is without friends or relatives to support him, he finds that the Government has made provision for his care. Formerly this protection of the poor was given by

the churches, which still do a great deal toward helping those unable to help themselves. In modern times, however, this has come to be considered as one of the duties of the Government. We find poorhouses, therefore, in every county and city, and officers are appointed whose duty it is to see that these unfortunates in the community are provided for.

**18. Protection of aged soldiers.** In Virginia the Government also provides for those soldiers who fought in the War between the States, and who, by reason of their disablement or their losses as a result of the war, are unable to care for themselves. These venerable men gave gladly of their youthful vigor and stood ready at a time of great need to sacrifice their lives in the service of their State. In many cases they lost their all in their country's cause. It is no more than right and just, therefore, that the Government should provide for them during the last days of their lives.

**19. Protection of life in times of riot.** Occasionally there arises in a community so serious a conflict of interests that the officers of the community are unable to preserve order. This frequently occurs during strikes, when some of the strikers and the rowdy element of the community become a mob and attempt to prevent the ordinary conduct of business.

It sometimes happens, too, that the people of a community are incensed over some crime that has been committed. They gather together and desire to punish the supposed criminal themselves, without permitting him to be tried and punished by law. In such cases it often happens that the police, the constables, and the sheriff—the officers who ordinarily preserve order—are unable to handle the situation. Life and property may both be seriously



endangered. There must be means for protection, and the Government provides it through the *militia* of the State.

In theory the militia of the State is composed of all able-bodied men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years. In truth, however, the militia consists of companies of men who volunteer for service in the various communities of the State. The Governor is commander-in-chief of the militia. He is empowered by law to call the troops out in emergencies of this kind in order to enforce the laws. It is in this way that the Government safeguards the lives of the people in situations so dangerous that they cannot be dealt with by the local authorities.

**20. Protection of our health.** In case we are taken with serious illness it is necessary for us to have the proper medical treatment. You can readily see the dangers that would arise if any one who wanted to become a physician or a pharmacist were permitted to do so. Ignorant men, claiming to be physicians, would be constantly prescribing for those who were in need of trained assistance. Deaths without number would result. In order to provide against such a miserable state of affairs, the Government prescribes that before a man can practice medicine he must pass certain examinations to prove his knowledge and ability.

The use of intoxicating liquors is today recognized to be dangerous to the health of those who use them to excess. Moreover, saloons are hurtful to the morals of the community. So peculiar a vice is the liquor habit that in many cases the individual cannot be trusted to regulate it. For a long time the Government has undertaken, in the interests of the health of the community, to control the sale of liquors to some extent. In the first place, large taxes are placed upon the manufacture of liquor; and in

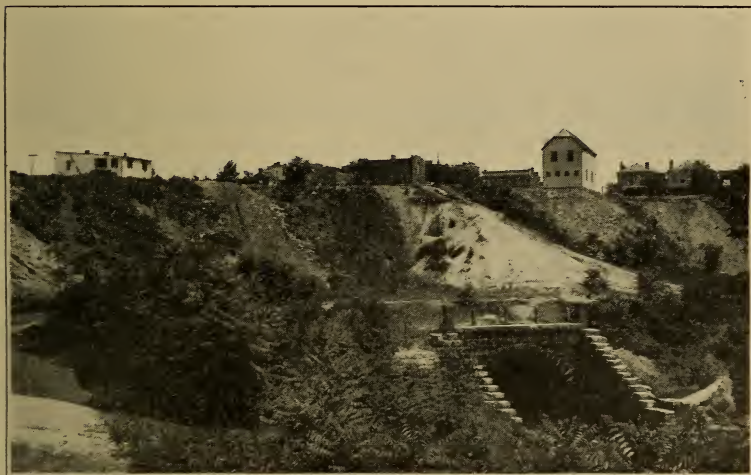
the second place, those who retail it are required to pay large fees to the Government. This makes the liquor expensive and in consequence lessens the sale of it. More recently, however, the Government of Virginia has undertaken much greater control over the sale of intoxicating liquors. Each community—county, town, or city—is permitted to decide for itself whether liquor shall be sold within its limits. This is a more effective means of control. The result has been that in the last few years the majority of the counties of Virginia and some of the cities have prohibited the sale of intoxicating liquors.

In another respect the Government has found it necessary to interfere in behalf of our health. Laws are made to protect us against unwholesome food being offered for sale. When foodstuffs are shipped in large quantities, the shippers cannot always be depended upon to consider the health of those who eat their products. Vegetables and meats often become stale and unwholesome before they are sold. Milk is often tampered with, chemicals being added to preserve it from souring. The health of the community is seriously endangered by such inconsiderate acts, for we ourselves are often unable to detect the unwholesomeness of the food we are eating. The Government steps in to help us by appointing officers whose duty it is to inspect various food-products that are offered to the people of the community.

Most of our canned meats are shipped from Chicago and the middle West. Recent investigations showed that the great packing-houses having in charge the preparation of these meats had been very careless in regard to cleanliness and other protections which should have been used to prevent disease. Our national Government at Washington took the matter up, believing that it was something that concerned the whole nation. A law was passed

providing for government inspectors for the packing-houses, and no canned meats can be sold to-day unless they are labeled by these inspectors.

**21. Protection of health in towns and cities.** Just as densely settled communities increase the liability to accident, so they increase also the danger to the health of those who live in them. In towns and cities, therefore, it becomes the duty of the Government to make special pro-



A CITY DUMP

Where the ashes and dry refuse from the homes of a Virginia city are dumped on the outskirts of the city. Garbage is usually burned.

visions for the proper protection of the health of the community. Streets must be kept clean. Dirt, refuse, and garbage must be carted away from the homes of the community. Contagious diseases in these communities would naturally spread rapidly from one person to another if the Government did not exercise prompt control over the homes of those who are so unfortunate as to contract such diseases. They must be rigidly quarantined—that is, well

persons must be prevented from entering the house while the disease lasts. When the sickness is ended, the Government requires that the premises shall be thoroughly disinfected. In cases of malignant diseases, like small-pox, the sick person is often taken to a hospital provided for that purpose. The requirement that school children shall be vaccinated is another precaution that is taken to prevent the spreading of disease.

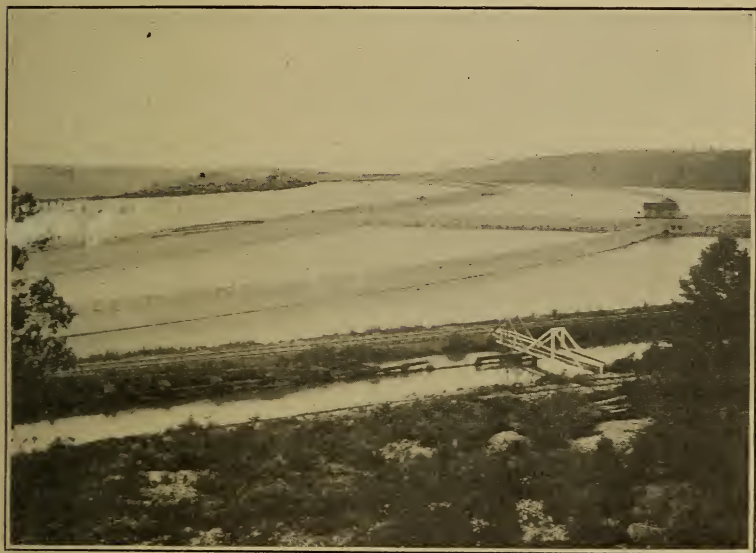
**22. Dangers to health in drinking water.** In modern times many diseases have been traced to impure drinking water. In the erection of buildings in his barnyard the farmer is not always careful to protect his well from impurities. Sometimes the stable-barn is built on high ground and the well is sunk in lower ground. The result is that the filth and refuse from the stable drain toward the well; its water becomes affected with unwholesome germs, and diseases are spread. Too much care cannot be taken in choosing the site for a well.

In cities the old method of securing drinking water from wells has long since been abolished. It was impossible for each of the many hundreds of houses to have its own well; besides, it was too inconvenient. In all of the larger cities of Virginia the Government has undertaken to supply the community with water through pipes and mains laid beneath the streets. Particular care has to be taken in choosing a pure source from which the drinking water is to be supplied. Seacoast towns find this matter especially difficult by reason of the fact that the water around them is mostly salt water. The water supplied to the inhabitants of Norfolk is secured from a fresh-water lake and is purified by being pumped through filters. In Richmond there has been recently constructed a settling basin in which the muddy water of the James River, from which Rich-



mond's water supply is drawn, is cleared before it is pumped into the reservoirs.

**23. Summary.** We thus see in how many ways the Government is daily protecting our lives and health. Many of these things we have scarcely thought to ascribe to the Government. We are so used to them that we do not



THE SETTLING BASIN NEAR RICHMOND

Here the muddy water of the James River is cleared before being pumped into the city reservoir.

think much about them. We do not often stop to consider, for instance, when we go into an elevator or a theater, that the Government has afforded us a certain degree of protection against accident. When we see the street cleaners busy about us, and the lamp lighters going their rounds at twilight, it does not often occur to us that they are furnishing us with protection. As we sit down to our tables, we

do not frequently remember that much of the food before us has been inspected by Government officers in order that its wholesomeness may be assured. These are only a few instances, as we have seen, in which we are shielded by the Government from many attacks that might otherwise be made upon our lives and health.

### QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. What means, if any, are provided in your school for the protection of the lives of the teachers and pupils? Are there fire-escapes? Are there broad staircases? Are there sufficient exits? Do you have fire drills?

2. What means are provided for the protection of health? How is your schoolroom ventilated, and why? How is it heated? Is it well lighted? Do the school authorities require you to be vaccinated? Where does your drinking water come from? When are children prevented from attending school on account of disease? Who prevents them, and why?

3. If you live near a railroad, do you know of any precautions that are taken to prevent accidents? If you live near the water, what precautions do you know of there?

4. If you live in a city, do you know of any precautions that are taken to prevent accidents by fire in public buildings? To prevent accidents in the streets? How are your city streets lighted, and why? Who owns the lighting plant?

5. Find out what provision is made in your community for the care of the poor. Who supports the poorhouse?

6. Is there a militia company organized in your community? Do you know of any time that it has been called into active service? If so, when and why? Do you know any of its officers?

7. Suppose a man commits a crime in your community, who would ordinarily arrest him? Where would he be taken? What rights would he have? Would he have to prove his innocence?

8. Does your community prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors? If so, why?

9. Have you ever noticed an inspector's label on canned meats? Is milk inspected in your city? Are meats and vegetables inspected?

10. What measures does your city take to make the community more healthful? Is there a sewerage system? Are the streets kept clean? Are contagious diseases quarantined? What about the drinking water? The garbage?

11. Who is responsible for all these protections of life and health? Could you as an individual protect yourself in these things without the assistance of the Government?

## CHAPTER III

### WHAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES TO PROTECT OUR PROPERTY

**24. The ownership of property.** When we were discussing the individual's desire for wealth, we saw that wealth consists largely in things we call property. (See page 12.) Some of this property we use simply to satisfy our needs and comforts. A large part of it we use in business enterprises in order that we may get together more property and thus increase our wealth. In all civilized communities people enjoy the right of owning property.

In early history when people lived in tribes, as the American Indians once lived, they moved about from place to place without having any definite homes. Under such conditions it was impossible for them to own much property. They did not value the land because they did not know how to till the soil and raise crops. They secured food by hunting and fishing. In later times tribes began to settle on some particular tract of land, which was owned in common by the whole people of the tribal community. The different crops they raised were put together and were then distributed among the members of the tribe in accordance with their needs. The farm lands in Russia today are held in this manner by the whole people of a village.

In most civilized countries in modern times the land is held by the individual members of the community and not by the community as a whole. This results in many advantages, for each individual who owns a portion of the land feels a personal attachment to the community. He takes

an interest in its welfare because his own life is bound so closely to the life of the community. Communities, therefore, become more permanent in their character. It is for this reason that the Government not only recognizes the right of the individual to own land but even encourages him by protecting him in his possession.

**25. Our duty to protect our own property.** It is our duty both to ourselves and to our community to protect the property we possess. This we can do by carefully attend-



A SQUAD OF CITY POLICE

ing to our own business affairs, and sometimes by personally defending our property from attacks made upon it by others. It is clear, however, that we cannot always do this. We may lack the power or influence necessary to maintain our rights. In such instances it becomes necessary for the Government to step in and protect us. The means by which the Government does this constitutes a very



complicated system of laws framed in order to meet every possible conflict that might arise between individuals. This is a subject proper for the study only of lawyers and judges. It is easy for us, however, to see many of the simpler ways in which the Government protects us in the property we possess.

**26. Protection of property against robbery.** There are unfortunately in every community a few people of bad moral character who have no regard for the property rights of their fellowmen. They desire wealth for themselves, and not being able or willing to secure it by honest means, they try to steal property that belongs to some one else. Just as it is the duty of constables and police to protect the lives of the members of a community, so it is also their duty to protect property from thieves. In cities police patrol the streets constantly, in order to fulfill both of these duties. The lighting of the streets by night, which we saw was a protection to the lives of citizens, serves also to assist the police in the prevention of robberies that might otherwise be committed in the darkness.

In spite of this constant watchfulness on the part of officers of the Government, property is sometimes taken. The Government then puts forth every effort to seek out the guilty party and arrest him. You must not think that thefts are confined to the lower element of people living in the community. Sometimes men in high positions of trust, as for instance officers of a bank, yield to the temptation to steal the money which they have in their care. These men are no better than the worst of common thieves; in fact their guilt is even greater because they have usually had better opportunities and better training than the ordinary criminal.



**27. Protection of property against fire.** It is impossible for the individual members of a community to protect their property in any sure manner from destruction by fire. They must, of course, use due precaution to prevent the starting of fires. Something, too they can do when buildings are being erected, for many fires are caused by reason of the poor construction of buildings. It is usual for the Government, however, to undertake to protect property



ENGINES AT WORK AT A LARGE CITY FIRE

against loss by fire. This is naturally impossible in country districts where the houses are widely separated. It is only in towns and cities that the Government can accomplish anything in this direction.

In small towns and villages there is generally a volunteer force of firemen. Sometimes the only equipment they have is a number of water buckets which have to be passed from hand to hand along a file of men.

In cities there are regularly organized fire departments with fire engines, hose, and hook-and-ladder wagons, ready at a moment's call to hasten to any part of the city where a fire has started and property is threatened. At various points in the city are placed call boxes, from which an alarm can be sent over the electric wire to the central office of the department. Each box has its number, and bells, ringing the number of the box, indicate in what part of the city the fire is located. On frequent corners there are plugs to which the hose can be attached, and from which an abundant supply of water is secured through mains and pipes laid beneath the streets. Strong and courageous men, regularly employed for this purpose, hurry to the scene of the fire. These firemen are often called upon to risk their own lives in the rescue of people from a burning building, or in preventing the spread of the fire. In Richmond the fire department consists of ten steam engines, eight combination chemical wagons, three hook-and-ladder trucks, and two hose wagons, as well as engines and wagons held in reserve. The corps of firemen consists of a hundred and forty-seven officers and men. The police also are called upon to assist at fires by keeping back the crowds which gather and by preventing reckless people from endangering their lives.

**28. Protection of landed property.** Disputes frequently arise over the question as to who is the rightful owner of a piece of land. If the Government did not provide some means for protecting landowners, these disputes would be much more frequent than they are. . In Virginia every piece of land owned by an individual must be registered at an office provided by the Government. Whenever such a piece of property is transferred from one person to another, either by sale or by gift, the transfer must be recorded.

Usually a lawyer is employed in such cases to look up the whole history of the piece of land and to trace its numerous transfers. The owner then feels secure in his possession, for no one else will ever be able to claim the property by reason of its having been improperly transferred. This is called securing a *clear title* to the property.

**29. Protection of homes.** Sometimes a man is very unfortunate in his business. He may make serious mistakes, or by poor investments he may lose a great deal of money. As a result he finds himself heavily burdened with debts that he is unable to pay. His creditors begin to press him for settlement, and he stands in danger of having everything he possesses sold at auction, and himself and his family left in abject poverty. The Government realizes that many men are brought to this position through no direct fault of their own. It realizes, too, that if the man is made a pauper, especially if he is advanced in years, it will be impossible for him to recover himself. The Government therefore provides that an amount of his property not exceeding \$2,000 shall be reserved to him. This protection is known as the *homestead exemption*. In addition the law provides that a man may retain one horse, one cow, and a certain amount of his furniture.

Some men are unwilling to take advantage of this reserve offered by the Government. This is a duty, however, that a man owes to his family. Usually it should be gladly accepted, not only because it keeps his family from want, but because it gives him the opportunity to get into business again, to rebuild his broken fortunes, and perhaps to pay his debts in full.

**30. Government control over property.** In general we may do what we please with our property so long as we do not interfere with the rights of other people. In case our

property is a piece of land, we may erect buildings on it; or we may dig beneath it; and if we find minerals, or coal, or oil, these things belong to us. When the interests of the community, however, conflict with our own desires, the Government places certain restrictions upon us in the use of our land. In country districts, for instance, the Government usually requires that farms shall be fenced in, in order that cattle may not stray around and injure other people's property.

In towns and cities various restrictions are placed upon the use of property. The Government may determine the height of a building, or it may prevent a wooden structure from being placed in the heart of the city. It will not permit the owner of a piece of property in the residence part of the city to build on his property a factory or any unsightly building. It usually requires the property owner also to keep the sidewalks bordering his property free from snow and ice.

In some cases the Government may even take our property entirely from us. It may seem advisable, for instance, to open a road or street through the property we own; or the Government may desire to construct a park, or put up a school or other public building on our property. Frequently the owner is willing to sell such property to the Government for a reasonable amount. But in many cases terms cannot be agreed upon, or the owner may not wish to sell at any price. The Government thereupon takes the property away from him. The law provides, however, that in no case shall this be done without just compensation being paid to the individual for his loss. This power of the Government to take a man's property from him is called the power of *eminent domain*.

The Government usually confers this power upon rail-



roads. It is absolutely necessary that railroads should be given the right of way over all property. While the individual whose property the railroad takes should be fully paid, he must nevertheless be prevented from charging an unreasonable price for it.

In one other important instance the Government takes the individual's property from him—and that, without any *direct* compensation in money. This, however, brings up the whole question of taxation, a subject which will be reserved for a later chapter. (See chapter VII.)

**31. Property owned by the Government.** In every community the Government owns some of the property. Rivers, most of the roads, and many of the bridges are the property only of the Government. In cities the Government owns the streets, alleys, and parks—those portions of the property that are used by all the members of the community in common. The Government must own public buildings also, such as the State Capitol at Richmond, the county court-houses, city and town halls, public schools, public libraries, post-offices, prisons, and poorhouses.

**32. Summary.** We have discussed here only in brief outline what the Government does to protect us in the possession of our property. As we stated in the beginning, the whole system of governmental protection of property is very complicated. Now it may seem to you from what has been said that the Government undertakes in many instances to interfere with us in the use of our property. There are restrictions in regard to this, and restrictions in regard to that. In every instance, however, where the Government has seen fit to control us in the enjoyment of our property, it is because the interests of the community have demanded it.

## QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. What do we mean by property? What property do you use in school? What part of it belongs to you? What part belongs to the school? Who supplies this school property? Are you protected in the possession of your books and pencils? Who protects you?

2. Tell what you know of the life of the American Indians in early times. What kind of property did they have? Why did they not own land?

3. Who owns the land in your community? How may one man transfer a piece of land to another? In case of dispute over the ownership of a piece of land, who settles it?

4. What means does your community afford for protection against burglaries? Who arrests the burglar and what is done with him? Why do police patrol the city streets? Why are streets lighted? Why is there no patrol in the country districts? How is the police force organized?

5. Find out what you can about the fire department in your community. What is its purpose? Who supports it? Have you ever seen a large fire? How is an alarm turned in? Explain how the department operates. Why are there no fire departments in the country districts?

6. What property does the Government own in your community? How did the government get it? Why is this property owned by the Government?

7. Do you ever remember a road or street being opened in your community across some man's property? Or do you ever remember a schoolhouse or other public building being built on some man's property? If you do not know of any such instance, perhaps your parents or teacher can tell you of one. Who opened this road or street? Or who built this building? How did the Government get the property? Was the former owner justly paid? What is this power of the Government to take property called?



## CHAPTER IV

### HOW OUR LIBERTY IS PROTECTED

**33. What liberty in a community means.** When in the first chapter we were discussing our desire for liberty (see page 11), we saw that liberty in a community does not mean the right to do anything we please. The rights of others must be considered. If everybody were free to do what he liked at any time, there would be no law and order, no peace and safety, no protection for our lives and property.

Now it may seem to you that the Government, with all its laws and regulations and its officers appointed to carry them out, really deprives us of our liberty in many ways. This is quite true. But suppose the Government did not exist. It is easy to see that the most powerful man would exercise his liberty without regard to those about him, especially if he happened to be a man of evil character. It is necessary for us to have laws and Government in order to prevent the strong from oppressing the weak. It is thus by restricting the liberty of everybody to some extent that the liberty of all is secured.

**34. How the Government itself is restricted.** You must not think, however, that the Government can in every case make whatever laws it pleases. It cannot always pass laws that place restrictions upon our liberties. The people of Virginia, like the people in all the States of the Union, lay down certain limits in which the Government may act. They determine what powers the Government may exercise.

and prescribe certain things which the *Government itself may not do*.<sup>1</sup> We saw, for example, that the Government may not in any case take our property by its right of eminent domain without paying us a just amount for it. Again, when we were discussing the case of a man brought to trial for his life, we saw that there are certain rights which the Government has to respect. It has to give him a trial by jury and an opportunity to defend himself in a fair and open court. More often, however, it is not a man's life which is at stake in such a trial but his liberty. He is in danger of being thrown into prison for the offense of which he is accused. In such cases the prisoner usually has the same rights that he would have if he were on trial for his life. In many other ways too the people place restrictions upon the powers of the Government so that it may not be able to interfere with the individual's liberty.

**35. Protection of our freedom of speech.** In some countries today, as for instance in Russia, people have to be very careful what they say about the Government. Newspapers are prohibited from publishing articles criticising the Government; an officer called a censor is appointed to examine every article of news that they propose to publish. The object of this is to keep the people ignorant of what the Government is doing. Even in countries much better governed than Russia, as for instance in Germany, the individual has to be very careful what he says about the Sovereign. In Virginia, however, and indeed throughout the United States, there is no suppression of news in re-

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<sup>1</sup>This is accomplished by what is known as a Constitution. The Constitution is drawn up by representatives chosen by the people. It limits the powers of the Government to interfere with certain of our liberties, and the Government itself has no power to change the Constitution. See chapter VIII.

gard to the Government. Anybody may say what he pleases about the affairs of the Government.

Why is such liberty permitted in America? It is because we believe that the more the people know about the Government the better Government we shall have. It is necessary, therefore, that the people be permitted to discuss the actions of the Government very freely. Sometimes bad officers get control of the Government. It is right that the people should know of this. On the other hand, good officers and good laws are sometimes condemned, and the liberty that we as a people enjoy in this respect is abused. This is, of course, unfortunate. But even though this liberty of speech is sometimes abused, it would be far worse if we were kept in ignorance of what the officers of the Government are doing.

During the second administration of President Washington and the administration of his successor, John Adams, the newspapers of the country became very violent and abusive in their attacks upon the national Government. Congress sought to put a stop to this annoyance. They passed a law for the punishment of those who published scandalous articles about the Government. This was regarded at the time as a serious interference with the liberty of the people. It was questionable whether Congress had the power to pass such an act. Both James Madison and Thomas Jefferson, in the famous Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, expressed their hearty disapproval. The law remained in force only three years, and no attempt has ever since been made by the national Government to pass a law restricting the freedom of speech.

While we are secure in our right to discuss the Government whenever we please, we may not, however, say whatever we choose about our fellowmen. Suppose one man could say whatever he desired about another without any fear of punishment. It would often happen that stories

would be told and published that would seriously hurt an innocent man's reputation or business. Indeed this is sometimes done. Whenever a person can prove in court that he has been slandered by another, the law provides that his slanderer shall pay him a sum of money equal to the loss that he has sustained. This, of course, is not always sufficient to protect him, for it is difficult to measure a man's reputation in money. It is sufficient, however, in many cases to prevent men from making malicious attacks upon the personal character of others.

**36. Protection of our freedom of religion.** Several centuries ago, in England and in other countries, people held such strong opinions about religious matters that those who controlled the Government would often persecute those who held different beliefs from their own. You recall that the Puritans left England and Holland and established themselves in New England in order that they might worship God as they choose.

Even after religious persecutions had generally ceased among civilized people, the Governments of most countries continued to prescribe a certain religion which was known as the "state religion." No one could vote or hold office who was not a member of the so-called "established church"—that is, the church established and supported by the Government. This state of affairs continues today in some countries. In others, as for example in England, while all such restrictions upon office holding and voting have been removed, the church is still supported by the Government. People, however, are free to worship at any church they choose.

You may not know that in Virginia down to 1785 there was an "established church." At times during colonial days persecutions were carried on in Virginia against those



who presumed to teach any religion other than that of the Episcopal Church, or Church of England, as it was called. No small number of preachers were imprisoned in Virginia for having violated the peace of the community by preaching an "unlawful" religion. It was largely through the efforts of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison that complete freedom of religion was established in Virginia. This meant a great deal to the Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, and Quakers, who had for a long time suffered in the name of their religion.

In this day and generation we can scarcely understand how disagreeable it was to have the Government impose one particular church upon all the people. We are accustomed to living in communities where every man is permitted to worship wherever he chooses and according to any form that he desires. Not is any man today required by law to contribute to the support of any church. The people of Virginia have prohibited the Government from ever seeking to re-establish any particular church.

**37. Protection of our personal freedom.** So long as we obey the laws of the community in which we live, we cannot be restrained in our freedom to do as we please. We may move about freely from place to place. We cannot be forced to remain in any one community, nor can we be compelled to render service to any other person. Of course it is the duty of a man who is at the head of a family to provide support for his family, and this frequently requires him to render service to other people for which he is paid. This, however, does not bind one man to serve another. Children, too, are not wholly free from restraint. They are naturally under the protection of their parents, and their freedom is in that respect very properly denied to them.

Before the War between the States, almost the entire

negro population of Virginia, in common with the negroes of the rest of the South, was held in slavery. Slaves were bought and sold; indeed they were exchanged very much like other property. Although they were in most cases treated kindly by their masters, they did not enjoy any degree of personal freedom. They were compelled to do just what their owners required of them. As a result of the war, however, the negroes were made free, and today they enjoy the same amount of personal freedom that is permitted to the white population. It is now a general principle of Government throughout the United States that no man is to be deprived of his liberty to do as he pleases so long as he obeys the laws of the community in which he lives.

**38. Summary.** You will perhaps understand more fully now what we mean when we speak of our liberty in the community. It is true that the laws which the Government makes require many things of us and prevent us from doing others; but as we have seen, this is necessary to protect the rights and liberties of all. You must bear in mind too that the Government itself is controlled by the people. It cannot deprive us of certain of our fundamental liberties.

### QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the rules of your school that restrict your liberty? Why, for instance, are you not allowed to talk whenever you choose, or to move about as you choose, or to make disturbances? How would these things conflict with the rights of others? Explain, then, what liberty in the schoolroom means.

2. How is your liberty in the family restricted? Who makes the rules which you must obey in the home? Why are they made?

3. Compare the restrictions upon your liberty in the school and in the family with the restrictions which the Government places upon



the liberties of people living in the community. Why are these latter restrictions necessary? What, then, do we mean by liberty in a community?

4. Can the Government restrict the liberty of the people to any extent it chooses? Can the Government, for instance, prohibit freedom of speech? What do we mean by freedom of speech? Can one man say or print anything he chooses about another without fear of punishment?

5. Does the Government prescribe what church you shall attend? Could it do so if it wished? Why? Did the Government of Virginia ever make such laws? Why were they abolished? What is meant by an "established church?"

6. Could the Government arrest you and throw you into prison without any cause? Suppose you were suspected of having committed a crime, could you be arrested? What rights would you have? Would the Government have to prove you guilty?

7. Did you ever hear or read that some officer of the Government was unworthy of his position. Have the people in Virginia the right to talk freely about the Government? What good results from this? What evil sometimes results?

8. When was slavery abolished in Virginia? How much liberty did the slaves enjoy? What liberties do the colored people enjoy today? What liberties do all of us enjoy?

## CHAPTER V

### WHAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES TO HELP US IN OUR DESIRE FOR KNOWLEDGE

39. **Why the Government promotes education.** Many of our histories record the famous remark made by Governor Berkeley, of Virginia, in his report to the Commissioners of the Colonies in 1671. "I thank God," he said, "there are no free schools or printing presses, and I hope we shall not have any these hundred years." We of this day can scarcely understand what could have prompted such a remark as this. It seems almost as if our whole lives were centered around our schools and printing presses. What could Governor Berkeley have meant? His declaration certainly had a deeper meaning than we may at first believe. It is a well known fact of history that people can be held under a tyrannical Government only by being kept ignorant, and this was exactly what Governor Berkeley had in mind. He realized very fully that as soon as the common people began to think for themselves, there would no longer be any possibility of the Government oppressing them. They would rise up and demand those rights which they had come to understand through education. As soon as people begin to learn things, as soon as they begin to read and write, they begin to feel their power, and they immediately want to govern themselves.

It is just as true, however, that we as a people are not capable of governing ourselves unless our minds have been trained, unless we have studied earnestly, unless we are in-

telligent and well read. This is the reason why in the United States every State undertakes to provide schools for the people. The establishment of schools is the chief way in which the Government can promote knowledge among a people and make them better citizens. Nearly everybody now admits that in a democracy—that is, a community in which the people govern themselves—the Government must provide means for the education of every child, rich or poor, white or colored.

40/ The history of public education in Virginia. Of all the great statesmen who helped to found this nation of ours, Thomas Jefferson perhaps had more faith than any one else in the ability of the people to govern themselves. He was a firm believer in popular or democratic Government. But he realized that it was very necessary to improve the intelligence of the masses of the people. He proposed that both primary and high schools be established at the public expense throughout the State of Virginia, with a University, established in like manner, as the crowning achievement in a general system of free education. Although his plan was adopted by the Government of Virginia, it was never fully carried out.

As early as 1808 a sum of money known as the *Literary Fund* was set aside for the education of the poor children of the State. It was not a large fund, however, and the people looked upon it as a charity. Even when they were too poor to pay for the education of their children, they were too proud in many cases to accept the assistance of the Government. A considerable number of “free” schools were nevertheless established by means of this fund, as well as by private donations and subscriptions; and many thousands of children were thus educated without expense to their parents.

It is only since the War between the States, however, that a real system of public education has been established in Virginia. The old "free" schools existing in various parts of the State were made a part of our present system, which dates back only to the year 1870.

It has often been remarked that the Northern States were far in advance of Virginia in establishing public schools. The Governor of Connecticut, at the same time that Governor Berkeley made his outrageous remark about free schools and printing presses, wrote to the Commissioners, saying: "One fourth of the annual revenue of the colony is laid out in maintaining free schools for the education of our children." This certainly showed a marked difference in the attitude of the two colonies toward education. Why was it that Virginia was so long in establishing a system of public schools? There were several very good reasons.

In the first place Virginia was settled in large plantations widely scattered over the State. The people of the country districts, therefore, lived far apart from one another. Even had the Government in early times attempted to establish schools, it would have been difficult for the children in the outlying districts to attend them.

Moreover, there was in Virginia a large population of negro slaves. This fact caused society to be divided into three classes. There was first a wealthy class of land-owners and slave-owners, together with the professional men of the State. Next there was a class of poor white people consisting of mechanics, artisans, and laborers, who were despised by the negroes. And lastly there was the slave population. Now the Government of Virginia was almost exclusively in the hands of the upper class. The people of this class had money and the opportunity to provide education for their children by other means than at



A RUDE "ONE-ROOM" SCHOOL  
A type that is fast disappearing in rural Virginia



A MANUAL TRAINING CLASS  
A workshop for boys in a modern Virginia graded school



the public expense. They did not see the necessity, therefore, for general public education in order that all the people might share in the Government.

In New England, however, where public education first flourished, conditions were very different. The people settled in towns and on small farms. They were all close together, and it was easy for the children to get to a school if it was provided for them. There were few negro slaves in these communities, society was not divided into classes, and nearly everybody took some part in the popular government. Under such conditions it was natural that each of these town communities should establish a school for all the children. You can readily understand, therefore, why public education developed early in New England, and why it failed to develop in Virginia and the rest of the South.

**41. How the family should help to promote knowledge.** There are many ways in which the family can and ought to assist in educating its members whenever it can afford to do so. There ought to be newspapers, magazines, and books in every household, and the children should be encouraged in the reading of good literature. Sometimes the wealthier families in a community employ special teachers for their children. Sometimes they pay for their education at private schools and colleges. It is very clear, however, that if this were the only means afforded for the education of children, the result would be that only the well-to-do families would be educated. This, as we have just seen, was once the situation in Virginia. It is equally clear that if every child in the community is to have the opportunity of an education, the community must provide the schools.

Perhaps the foremost duty of the family is to see that children are sent to school. Parents sometimes fail to



realize their own responsibility. The Government indeed provides the schools, but it is the duty of parents to see that their children take advantage of every opportunity for education that is within their reach.

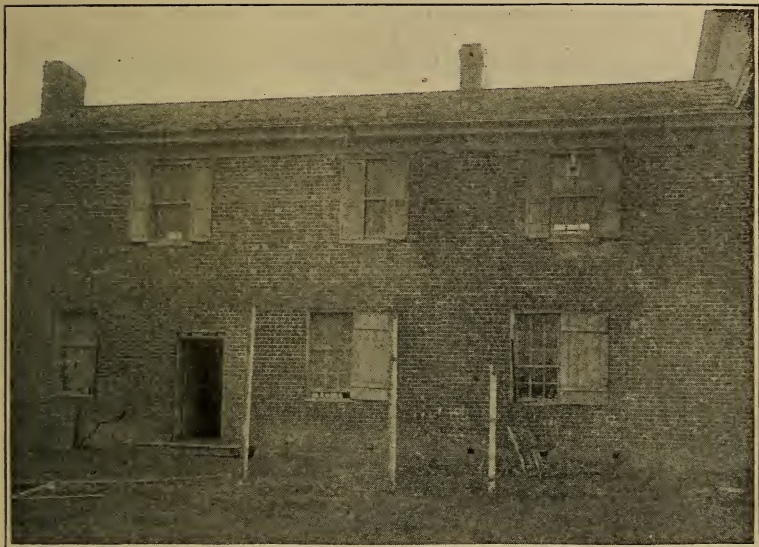
42. What the Government of Virginia aims to do for education. Those who have in charge the direction of public education in Virginia have said that their present aim is to place within reach of every child in the State a well equipped graded school, and to establish in each county at least one high school. But the Government has to face many difficulties in accomplishing this high purpose. In the first place, the necessary money is not always easy to secure. Sometimes communities are very poor. They object to giving a great deal of money for the establishment and support of schools. There are many people also who do not realize in its fullest sense the need of general education. They prefer to have the Government spend its money for good roads or some other purpose. And even when schools are established, they prevent their children from attending them because they need them to work at home or on the farm.

Another difficulty which the Government has to face in the building up of a system of schools is caused by the fact that our population is divided into two races. There must be separate schools for each race, and the expense is in consequence often doubled. All the children of school age in a given community may not be more than fifty, but if twenty-five of these are colored children, there must be two schools.

The Government, however, has accomplished a great deal in the way of overcoming these obstacles. While the responsibility for supporting the schools rests largely with each county or city, the State Government recognizes that

it must assist in building up the school system. It therefore appropriates a part of the money necessary for the maintenance of schools in each community. Sometimes there are a number of poor schools situated close together. In many cases these are being consolidated into one school with a splendid building, more teachers, and better equipment. In order that the children may not find it difficult to attend these consolidated schools, wagons are usually provided to take the children to and from school. The Government is also encouraging the formation of educational leagues and associations in each community. The object of these associations is to arouse interest in public education and to exert their influence for the improvement of school conditions. There has recently been established in Virginia also a journal devoted entirely to the interests of education. To this journal the Government lends its hearty support. It is evident that the Government is doing everything within its power to furnish for the children of Virginia excellent educational opportunities.

43. Education in cities. Cities usually provide better equipped schools than the country districts are able to afford, and it is easy to see why this should be the case. The cities are always wealthier than the rural communities, and can more easily get money for schools. There are many more children to be provided for, and since these children live close together, they find no difficulty in getting to and from school. In every city of Virginia there is a school within walking distance of every child. The organization of the schools is also usually better than that of the country schools. This results from the fact that in the cities it is possible for the superintendent of schools to keep constantly and closely in touch with the every-day conditions of his schools. In every city, moreover, and



OLD BUILDING OF THE BLACKSBURG GRADED SCHOOL,  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA



NEW BUILDING OF THE BLACKSBURG GRADED AND HIGH SCHOOL

in many towns and counties, a high school is provided so that the young people may continue their education beyond the elementary studies.

**44. What the Government does for higher education.** In Virginia, as in most of the States of the Union, the Government is not content with providing graded and high schools for the boys and girls of the State. Some provision is also made for higher education in colleges, institutes, and universities. The University of Virginia, at Charlottesville, was established in 1819 through the efforts of Thomas Jefferson. From that day to this, supported partly by the Government of the State, it has been educating men whose influence has been felt not only in the State but also in the affairs of the nation. Every boy in Virginia can secure at this University his college education free of all cost. At Farmville, the Government of the State maintains a Normal School for the training of women teachers; and in 1908 provision was made for two additional normal schools for women, one located at Harrisonburg, and the other at Fredericksburg. It lends its support also to the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, William and Mary College at Williamsburg, and the Medical College of Virginia at Richmond. The Government also maintains for the colored people a Normal and Industrial School at Petersburg.

**45. What the school does for the community.** We have been discussing the question of what the community, or Government, is doing for the schools. The question naturally arises, why should the Government go to all of this trouble and spend all the money necessary to establish an adequate school system? We saw that one of the reasons for this was that the people of any community



must be educated if they are to govern themselves intelligently. (See page 50.) You must not think, however, that schools are provided simply that men may know how to vote intelligently. There are several other reasons why the community ought to encourage and support schools. Let us see what some of these reasons are.



A WAGON IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY  
Used for carrying children to and from a consolidated school

In the first place, educated men understand some things which uneducated men do not understand. Knowing more things and having trained minds, they make better farmers, better store-keepers, better business men. They can earn more money, and whatever a man earns for himself, you must understand, increases the wealth and prosperity of the community in which he lives.

In the second place, your life within the school is very similar to the life you are to lead in the community. Just as in the community people have desires, so in the school the pupils have desires—desires for health, for possessions, for liberty, for knowledge, for progress. The purpose of the school is to assist the pupil in the attainment of these desires. But there are also conflicts in the desires which different pupils have, and as a result there are rules or laws of the school which must be obeyed. The teachers and the



NEW BUILDING OF THE LOUISA COURT HOUSE  
GRADED AND HIGH SCHOOL

principal, backed by the superintendent and the school board, make and enforce these laws. They correspond to the Government in a community; they *are* the Government of the school. You thus see that in your life in the schoolroom you are face to face with many of the same conditions which people meet in community life. You are trained at school into habits of obedience. You are taught to respect your elders and superiors, to be courteous



always to your fellow-students, and to be considerate of their rights and privileges. The good habits you form and the training you receive in school are just what you need to make you a better citizen in your community. Sometimes these facts are lost sight of in the every-day life of the schoolroom, but even when they are not brought to your attention, they are not without their effect. The training for good citizenship is always present in the schoolroom.

In the third place, our outlook is broadened by education. We learn of many things that have happened during the world's history, and of many more that are happening today. We learn to understand and appreciate many old things and to see many new things. We come to enjoy good books and other high forms of pleasure. We see our duty to our community more clearly. We are more willing to devote our time to the service of our community and State; and perhaps we are trained so that we will make efficient servants of the public.

Of course there are some exceptions to this. Not all educated men are noble, and high-minded, and considerate of the welfare of their community, but it is true that this is the general effect of education upon a people. You can easily see, then, what the school does in return for all that the community sacrifices to build and maintain it.

In one other way does the school improve the community. It often advances the prosperity of the community by increasing the value of property and attracting new residents. People do not always realize the truth of this. When families with children desire to move from one community to another they are often very particular to inquire about the schools. They are unwilling to settle in any place unless there is a good school near at hand. This

is true both in the city and in the country districts. Moreover, whenever a handsome school is built in any community the property around the school nearly always advances in value. People want to live close to the school, and they are willing to pay for the privilege of doing so.

**46. Other ways in which the Government promotes knowledge.** We have seen that the public schools are the chief means by which the Government fosters education in the community. The Government does many other things, however, to advance knowledge among the people. It has established in Staunton an institution in which the deaf and blind receive education appropriate to their needs. A few miles from Richmond there is a reformatory where wayward boys are sent to be instructed in useful trades and to receive moral training, in order that they may not in after years become criminals who violate the laws of the community.

In Richmond there is a large library owned and supported by the State Government. In connection with this library, collections of books known as "traveling libraries" are sent temporarily to all parts of the State. Moreover, in some of the cities of Virginia there is a movement on foot to establish free libraries. Norfolk already has such a library. The building was given by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, and the library is supported at the expense of the city.

**47. Summary.** It is evident that the communities in Virginia are making marvellous progress in the advancement of education and the promotion of knowledge among the people. There is much yet to be done. The day is not far distant, however, when every child in the State of Virginia may have the opportunity, at least, of securing a splendid education, free of all direct cost to his family, under the patronage and support of the Government.

## QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. What evidences are there in your community that the Government is helping the people to attain knowledge? Are there public schools? Is there a public library? Is there a high school? A public institution of higher learning? Have you ever seen a traveling library?

2. Explain how your life in the school corresponds to life in your community. What constitutes the school government? Who makes ~~and~~ who enforces the laws? Do you see how your school training will help to make you a better citizen? In what way?

3. Do the people in Virginia govern themselves? What kind of Government is this called? Why is education necessary for people who govern themselves? What were Thomas Jefferson's views about this?

4. What are some of the reasons why public education did not develop in Virginia before the war? Why did it develop in New England?

5. Tell what you know of the school system of your community. If there is no high school near you, are the people talking of building one? Who is your county or city superintendent? What are the duties of the school board? Do you know any of its members?

6. Is your school a graded or an ungraded school? Have any schools in your county been consolidated? How are the pupils brought to the school? Why were the schools consolidated? If you are a pupil in a consolidated school, what are some of the advantages you now enjoy which you did not have before?

7. Who builds and pays for the support of public schools? Why does the Government do this? Suppose the Government did not provide schools, are there not many children who would be deprived of an education?

8. In what ways does the family assist in education? What is the duty that parents owe their children? What duty do you as pupils owe yourselves?

## CHAPTER VI

### WHAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY PROGRESS

48. What community progress is. It is very necessary that the people who live in a community shall have daily intercourse with one another, and that this intercourse shall be made as comfortable and easy as possible. This calls for good roads and streets, for railroad, steamboat, and trolley lines. Means must be provided also by which the people of one community may have communication with the people of other communities. This requires that a system of post-offices be established, as well as telegraph and telephone service. Most of us too desire beautiful things around us, not only in our homes, but when we go out into the highways which are the common property of all the people of the community. The eye is pleased with the sight of such things as beautiful buildings, well-kept parks, and monuments, and our life within the community is made more delightful and more inspiring by the presence of these things. Now we usually have in mind undertakings of this kind when we speak of community progress.

We must bear in mind, however, that each of us is very largely responsible for the progress that our community makes. The improvements we put upon our own property help to improve the community. When we plant grass and flowers in our yards, we improve the appearance of the streets. When children refrain from scattering paper in the streets, from defacing trees and shrubs, from marking

on fences and walls, they help to keep their community clean and attractive. When a man advances his own business interests, he promotes the welfare of the community as a whole, for the prosperity of the community is measured by the prosperity of those who live in it. In many ways each of us can assist in promoting the progress of our community.

Sometimes, too, large companies are formed for the purpose of carrying on enterprises which advance community progress. Railroads, trolley lines, boat lines, the telegraph and the telephone service are all owned and operated by private companies for the purpose of gain. The progress of any community is very dependent upon such undertakings as these.

In many cases, however, neither an individual nor a stock company is willing to undertake those things that are necessary for the progress of the whole community. Most of them require an enormous outlay of money, and from many of them no profit can be derived. It then becomes the duty of the Government to undertake these great enterprises. They call for the expenditure of a large amount of money, but they increase the comfort, the pleasure, and the pride of all the members of the community, and they facilitate communication and intercourse.

**49. Why good roads are necessary.** When in 1790 Thomas Jefferson arrived in New York to take his position as Secretary of State in the new Government of the United States, he wrote to a friend whom he had left in Virginia: "I arrived here on the 21st inst, after as laborious a journey of a fortnight from Richmond as I ever went through; resting only one day at Alexandria, and another at Baltimore. I found my carriage and horses at Alexandria, but a snow of eighteen inches deep





AN UNIMPROVED ROAD IN AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA



THE SAME ROAD AT THE SAME POINT AFTER IMPROVEMENT

falling the same night, I saw the impossibility of getting on in my carriage, so left it there, to be sent to me by water, and had my horses led on to this place [New York], taking my passage in the stage, however relieving myself a little sometimes by mounting my horse. The roads through the whole way were so bad that we could never go more than 3 miles an hour, sometimes not more than 2, and in the night but one."

In this day of rapidly flying railway trains and the other conveniences of swift transportation, we can scarcely understand what difficulties and discomforts attended upon travel in those early days. Think of taking fourteen days for a trip from Richmond to New York—a journey which we now make in almost half as many hours.

Many people, especially those who live in cities, think that with our present system of railroads there is no longer any necessity for having good driving roads. They point out that articles of food and products for manufacture are brought into the great cities almost entirely by railroad or by boat. They would perhaps be surprised to learn that ninety-five per cent of these articles have first to be hauled by wagons over the country roads to depots and wharfs. And it must be remembered that the people living in cities are absolutely dependent upon the people of the country districts, both for their food and for the raw materials which they use in factories. The problem of good roads is therefore one in which all of us should be deeply interested.

**50. What the Government in Virginia does for good roads.** In Jefferson's time it was generally the custom in Virginia for the large planters to build such rude roads as they needed. If these roads were used by others, a toll was charged. With the growth of population it became

evident that the community would have to undertake the construction of roads for the common benefit of all. Even after the counties began to build roads, the Government usually met the expenses by charging tolls. This toll system is still followed in some parts of the State; and there are still some private roads.

Another plan adopted in Virginia was that of requiring every able-bodied man living outside of a town or city to work on the country roads two days of each year, or else to pay the county a sum equivalent to a laborer's wages for two days. A law providing for this method of keeping up the roads existed in Virginia down to 1904, but it was not a great success. Some people think that *anybody* can construct a road; but as a matter of fact the building of a good road requires the skill of a trained engineer. Most farmers do not possess this necessary training.

Provision is now made by which the State Government supplies to each county desiring to improve its roads a competent road-engineer and a force of laborers made up of convicts from the State penitentiary. The county pays the salary of the engineer, as well as for the material—gravel, stone, cinders, shells—used in making the road. This law has been in operation only a short time. If the counties will take advantage of this means offered by the State, much can be done to improve the condition of the roads, and thus to advance the progress of the country districts. The State Government has more recently determined to appropriate \$250,000 annually, beginning with the year 1909, to assist the counties in constructing roads. Half of the expense will be borne by the State.

**51. How the Government controls railroads.** In Europe many of the railroads are owned and operated by the Government, but in the United States this plan is not adopted.

The Government realizes, however, that the people are very dependent upon railroads, and it lends every encouragement to the building of new lines through parts of the country where there are poor railway facilities. For instance, as we have already noticed (see page 41), it gives to the railways the power to take property whenever necessary under the right of eminent domain, provided always that the owner shall be justly paid for the property that is taken. The Government realizes, too, that the individual members of a community are very much at the mercy of railroads. They may charge exorbitant fares and freight rates, or they may be inconsiderate of the traveler's comfort. The Government has therefore found it necessary to subject railroads to very rigid control.

In Virginia there has recently been established a commission, known as the *State Corporation Commission*, whose duty it is to make regulations for the control of the railroads in the people's interests. This commission consists of three men. It has the power to determine what rates shall be charged, and to require the railways to provide comfortable and convenient service for the public. The commission can even punish railways by heavy fines in case they refuse to obey its orders. The members of the commission are given the right also to examine the books of the railways and to require reports from them, in order that they may at all times be thoroughly in touch with the affairs of every railroad.

Most of our large railways extend beyond the State of Virginia into neighboring States. Of course Virginia cannot completely control the operations of such railways. Wherever these conditions exist, it is necessary for the national Government at Washington to undertake the control.



**52. How the Government controls waterways.** The rivers, lakes, and harbors of the State of Virginia are the property of the whole people. No one can claim these waterways as a part of his own property. Before the days of the steam-engine or even of good driving roads, much of the travel and most of the freight traffic was carried on by means of the waterways. In the passage quoted above you remember how Jefferson told of his being forced to send his carriage to New York by water. Virginia is peculiarly fortunate in having a large number of navigable rivers and good harbors. The Government does many things for the improvement of the means of navigation. It provides for the dredging of rivers and harbors in order that larger boats may be able to navigate them. It surveys and makes charts of the channels of these waterways in order that boats may not become grounded in shallow water. It makes regulations for the pilots who are to steer boats through these channels, and in many other ways it provides for security of travel by water.

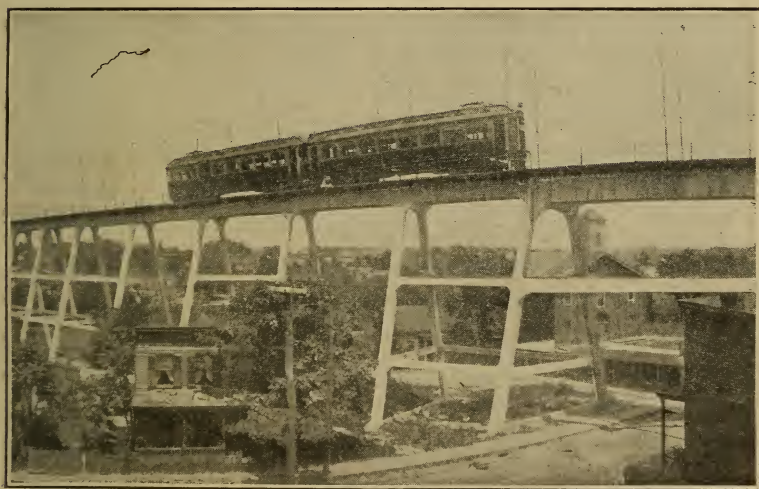
Sometimes too the Government has undertaken to build canals where there was no natural water route. The James River on account of the rocks is not navigable above Richmond. Many years ago the Government of Virginia assisted in building a canal from Lynchburg to Richmond. The rapid development of railways, however, and the consequent reduction of rates largely put an end to canal building.

**53. How the Government controls trolley lines.** With the use of electricity in transportation vast systems of trolley lines have grown up in and near many of the cities of Virginia. The Government finds it necessary to control these lines in much the same way that it controls steam railways. No company can use the streets of a city for



the operation of electric cars without the consent of the Government. In return for its consent the Government reserves the right to fix the fares to be charged, and to regulate the speed of the cars and the frequency with which they must be run.

These trolley lines form a network of tracks throughout the larger cities. They provide easy means of trans-



#### A RURAL ELECTRIC LINE

This viaduct, forming a part of the electric railway between Richmond and Ashland, is built of solid concrete.

portation from one part of the city to another, and they frequently extend a considerable distance into the country districts. Around the larger cities of Virginia extensive rural trolley lines have developed. The city of Norfolk is connected by trolley with Virginia Beach, Ocean View, Willoughby Spit, Sewall's Point, and Pine Beach. Portsmouth is likewise connected with Port Norfolk, Pinner's Point, and Churchland. From Richmond electric lines

now extend to Petersburg, Ashland, and Seven Pines, while Manchester and all the city's suburbs are by the same means brought into immediate connection with the heart of the capital city.

Many advantages have resulted from the growth of suburban electric lines. People no longer have to live near their place of work. At little cost and in a short time they can be carried away from the city to pleasant homes in the surrounding country. There they enjoy better air and have some of the advantages of country life. Land too is always cheaper on the outskirts of a city, and people of small means can more easily establish homes of their own.

**54. Transportation and progress.** In what we have said about roads, waterways, railways, and electric lines, we have frequently used the word "transportation," which means the methods by which persons and freight are carried from one point to another. In modern times it is very necessary that transportation be made easy, safe, and comfortable. People have to move from place to place very frequently. They cannot afford to waste much time in travel. The more quickly they are enabled to reach their destination with safety, the more they can accomplish. It thus happens that the progress of a community can often be measured very definitely by the means of transportation which the community affords.

We have only to refer to one instance in the history of the State of Virginia to see the truth of this. In the early part of the nineteenth century the people of the State began to move across the mountains, first into the valley, and then into what is now West Virginia but was then a part of Virginia. They had no communication with the sea and therefore had no outlet for the products they raised and the minerals they dug from the earth. The Government

of Virginia was almost wholly in the hands of the landowners and slave-owners who lived east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. These were jealous of their power. They were jealous too of expending a great deal of money to increase the prosperity of the people of the western part of the State. The pioneers of the West plead with them to build a railroad across the mountains, connecting West Virginia with the canal at Lynchburg; but the Government of Virginia hesitated to undertake the proposition. What was the result? There was already a good wagon road leading from this part of Virginia through the State of Maryland; and later the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was built, connecting western Virginia with the port of Baltimore, then a small city. The products of western Virginia began to pour into Baltimore, and Baltimore began to grow. But for this failure to provide the necessary means for transportation, Norfolk, with natural harbor facilities far in advance of those of Baltimore, might have been to-day what Baltimore is—a city of many hundred thousand people.

**55. What the Government does for the transmission of news.** *Postal service.* Even as far back as the colonial period a crude system of post-offices was established, largely through the influence of Benjamin Franklin. At first it was a private undertaking, but the people very soon realized that it was an enterprise affecting the interests of the whole country. It was not long, therefore, before it was taken over by the Government. To-day the business of carrying the mails is owned and operated exclusively by the national Government at Washington.

In early days the mails were subjected to the same delays and difficulties that attended travel. They were carried by horsemen or stage-coaches, and postage was very expensive. After the building of railroads there came a reform in the service. The charges for postage were greatly reduced, for the Government came to realize that cheaper and quicker service was necessary for the progress of the whole country.

Since the first reduction of postage rates, many other reforms have been introduced to facilitate the carrying of the mails and to improve the usefulness of the service to the people. The most recent of these progressive steps has been the establishment of what is known as "rural free deliveries." For a long time mail matter has been delivered in cities directly to the houses; elsewhere people had to call at the post-office for their mail. Where de-



A RURAL FREE DELIVERY WAGON  
Ready to start from the village post-office

livery routes have been established in the country districts, the farmer now gets his letters and newspapers promptly, and without the necessity perhaps of a long trip to the post-office.

On account of their weight newspapers, magazines, and books are more expensive to carry than letters. Yet the



transmission of such matter is very necessary in order that the people of one community may be kept in constant touch with what the other communities of their State and country are doing. They promote the general knowledge and information of the people.\* The Government therefore carries such printed matter at lower rates than it charges for letters, even though this policy results in an annual loss of about twenty-five million dollars. Small packages also may be sent through the mails.

*Telegraph and telephone service.* In nearly all European countries the telegraph lines are owned and operated by the Government, and in some of them the telephone service also. This is not the case in the United States. The transmission of news by telegraph and telephone is a business undertaken by large companies for purposes of gain. As a result this service in the United States is more expensive than it is in Europe. Although the Government does not own the telegraph and telephone systems, the companies engaged in operating them are subjected to strict control. The Government realizes that we have become very dependent upon these methods of transmitting intelligence. It will not permit telegraph and telephone companies to charge exorbitant rates, and it usually requires them, in the interests of the public, to maintain a thoroughly efficient service.

In recent years telephone systems have been very generally installed throughout the country districts of Virginia. This has resulted in immense advantages to rural communities. People who live on farms that are some distance apart have means for enjoying constant communication with one another. Moreover the telephone enables them to keep in touch with neighboring towns and cities both for business and social purposes. The rural telephone and



the rural free delivery have proved to be of immense importance in promoting the progress of our farm communities.

**56. How the Government controls the streets.** In cities, as we have seen, the streets are the common property of all the people and are controlled by the Government for the people's benefit. Their chief use is for walking and driving. The Government, however, allows the streets to be used for many other necessary purposes, although it usually takes care that walking and driving shall not be seriously interfered with. Sometimes a street is temporarily closed for repairs or for excavations, and sometimes when buildings are being erected or torn down, a street is partially obstructed. In all of our cities, however, the Government makes regulations to prevent people from placing unnecessary obstructions in the streets. When a large building is being erected in the business section of the city, you may have noticed that the sidewalk is often covered over in order that people may pass to and fro in safety.

Frequently the Government itself makes use of the streets for the benefit of the people. It places numerous mains and pipes beneath the streets for the purpose of carrying off the sewerage, as well as for the purpose of supplying water and gas to the inhabitants of the city. The Government usually owns the sewer system, the water-works, and the gas-plant. Some cities also own the power-houses used for lighting the streets by electricity. Whenever the Government operates such things as these, it makes free use of the streets.

Private companies are also permitted to use the streets for certain purposes of advantage to the people. Electric car companies are permitted to lay tracks and string wires.

Telegraph, telephone, and electric lighting companies are also allowed to put up poles and wires. In every case, however, the Government reserves the right to regulate the business of these companies (see pages 70, 75), and makes them pay for the use of the streets.

The custom of stringing wires on poles along the streets is very objectionable. The intricate network of wires in the business section of the city is not only dangerous but presents an unsightly appearance. A movement has started in some of the cities of Virginia to require all wires to be put in conduits under the ground, and considerable progress has been made in this direction. The day will come, too, when overhead trolley wires will give way to the more improved system of placing them underground, although this latter system is far more expensive.

You see therefore that the Government endeavors in many ways to control the streets for the the best interests of the people living in the city community.

**57. How the Government improves the appearance of the community.** In the country districts where people live scattered about on farms, whatever is done to beautify the community must be attended to largely by individuals. The farmer can do much to add to the attractiveness of his surroundings. In clearing out ground for cultivation, trees should always be left standing along the roads. Vine hedges are a great improvement upon bare fences of wire or rails. Freshly painted houses and barns, neatly kept barn-yards, well ordered lawns in front of the houses, trees and flowers—these are a few of the things that help to make rural communities more pleasing to the eye and more inspiring and attractive to live in.

The individuals who live in cities are also largely responsible for the attractive appearance of the community

(see page 64), but in addition the city Government undertakes many things to improve appearances. Cleanliness is naturally the first consideration. To this end the Government either requires the individual to pave the sidewalk bordering his property or else assists him in paving it. In most cities too the Government either macadamizes the roadbeds of the principal streets or paves them with stone, brick, or asphalt. It provides also a force of men whose



A WELL-KEPT STREET IN PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA

Observe, however, how the appearance of the street is marred by the unsightly poles and wires.

duty it is to keep the streets well swept, and in some cities the streets are watered to allay the dust.

But cleanliness is not all; something must be done to add to the beauty of the streets. Our city Governments provide for the setting out of trees, which greatly improve the appearance of the streets and add to the comfort of those who use them during the heated season. Parks are

also provided, with stretches of closely cropped grass, beautiful shade trees, beds of flowers, fountains, and well-kept paths. The Government frequently assists in erecting monuments to commemorate the site of some important event of history, or the life of some great hero. In erecting public buildings, it is the duty of the Government—a duty not always observed—to see not only that the buildings are suited to their purpose, but that they are also an architectural ornament to the community in which they are erected.

The grounds around school buildings can be made attractive at comparatively little expense. Cleanliness and beauty can be very easily provided for. You, as school children, can do many things to beautify your school building and grounds. In most cases you can have flower beds in the school yard, and you yourselves can care for the flowers. Perhaps you can also plant trees and vines about the grounds. Especially, however, can you assist by taking care of the school furniture, and by refusing to litter the school yard or to place unsightly pictures and writing on walls and fences.

**58. Summary.** Perhaps you now have a better idea of how many things the Government is doing to promote community progress. If our community has the progressive spirit, it cannot fail to be an attractive and inspiring place to live in. There are many things which we ourselves can do, but there are others that the community as a whole must undertake. Each of us can show our interest in these things and our appreciation of them. We can do much to make our own homes a pride to the community. And we can certainly refrain from interfering with the community's efforts to keep the roads, the streets, the parks, and the schoolhouses clean and beautiful.



## QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. What are the means afforded by your community for your getting to and from school? Is your school building attractive? Are there flowers and trees in the yard? Are you pupils careful to keep your school neat and clean? Can you think of some things that could easily be done to make your school more attractive? Can you help in any way?

2. What is the condition of the roads in your community? Are there any macadamized roads? Who attends to the repairing of the roads? Do you know of any road that has recently been repaired? How was it done? Are there any toll roads in your county? Who owns them? Why was the method of having the farmers work on the roads two days in the year given up?

3. Are there any waterways near your community? Who owns them? Is anything being done to improve them? Do you know of any river or harbor that has been dredged recently?

4. Is there a railway in your community? Who owns it? How does the Government control it? What are the duties of the State Corporation Commission?

5. Are there any electric lines in your community? Are they wholly within your town or city, or do they run into the country? Who controls them? If you live in a city, is your electric car service good or poor? Have the suburbs of your city grown since the building of electric lines?

6. How far is your post-office from your home? Are letters delivered to you, or do you call for them? Who owns the post-offices? Why are newspapers and books carried for less than letters?

7. How far from your home is the nearest express office? The nearest telegraph office? Is there a telephone service in your community? Does the Government own any of these services? Does it control them?

8. If you live in a city, find out who owns the waterworks. The gas-plant. The electric plant or plants. How are water, gas, and electricity distributed through the city?

9. Does your city permit wires to be strung on poles along the streets? What objection is there to this? Do the electric car lines and the telegraph and telephone companies pay for the use they



make of the streets? What use do they make? Whom do they pay?

10. Are the sidewalks of your city or town paved? Who paved them? Are the roadbeds of the streets paved? Who paved them? Are there trees along the streets? Who set them out? What are the names of your parks? Describe them. Are they well kept? Who pays for keeping them up?

11. Why does the Government undertake these things for the cities? Who enjoys them? Why are such things not done in the country districts? Can you think of anything that could be done to improve the appearance of your community? Is there anything you could do?

12. Are there any public buildings in your community? Mention one that you think is beautiful. One that you think is unsightly.

## CHAPTER VII

### HOW THE GOVERNMENT IS SUPPORTED

**59. What is meant by taxation.** In the foregoing chapters we have seen something of what the Government does to assist us in the attainment of certain desires that we should be unable to enjoy without assistance. Have you stopped to consider that a great deal of money is needed for the working out of all these plans? In a State like Virginia there must be many officers to carry on the work of the various departments of the Government. To these salaries must be paid. There must be many buildings, such as court-houses and jails, schoolhouses and libraries, city halls, fire houses, and poorhouses. There must be money for the improvement of roads, the paving of streets, the building of bridges. Where does this money come from? It is raised by a system called *taxation*.

Most of you have doubtless heard taxes spoken of, but you may never have understood just what they are, or why they are necessary. Now your attention has been called to the fact that the Government undertakes to do for the people of a community many things that promote the welfare of the community as a whole. For these things money is needed. Perhaps you will appreciate more fully, then, why the raising of taxes is a very essential part of life in a community; it is essential to the existence of the Government, and therefore essential to the peace and the happiness of each of us living in the community.

What is a *tax*? A tax is a sum of money taken from the

individual to be used by the Government for the interest of the whole community. Or, as it is sometimes briefly put, "a tax is private property taken for a public purpose." You must bear in mind that taxing is taking *property*; for although taxes are usually paid in money, we must not forget that money is one form of property.

Many people have a feeling that the payment of taxes is a great hardship. They look upon it almost as oppression. They do not see that they are doing anything wrong if they avoid ~~paying~~ their taxes whenever it is possible. They sometimes even make false statements in order to be relieved of the burden of taxation. They do not seem to realize that the Government gives them something in return for the money paid in taxes. It gives them innumerable protections for their life, their liberty, and their property, and innumerable benefits such as good roads, paved and lighted streets, and schoolhouses. As a matter of fact, we should be just as willing to pay for these things as we are to pay for the things that we buy in the shops. Most of us get far more from the Government, in the form of benefits and protections provided for us, than we ever actually pay for in taxes.

You will remember also that the Government sometimes takes property from the individuals of a community under the power of eminent domain, whenever their property is needed for the opening of a street or a road, or any other public purpose. (See page 40.) But this is very different from taking property by taxation. When the Government exercises this power of eminent domain, it always pays the individual *directly* in money for the property it takes. In the case of taxes, however, the Government pays the individual only *indirectly* in those general things which it undertakes for the common welfare of all.

**60. Taxation in history.** It is always true that, next to their life and liberty, people dislike more than anything else to give up their property. Nothing so quickly influences the people of a community against the Government as the feeling that the taxes demanded of them are unjust. Two of the greatest questions of all times have been: (1) Who shall have the power to impose the taxes? (2) How much shall the taxes be? Terrible wars have been fought out over these questions. Our own Revolutionary War arose, you remember, over a dispute in regard to taxes. Parliament claimed the right to tax the colonies. The colonists objected and demanded the right to have a voice in the laying of these taxes. The war resulted, and we became an independent nation.

**61. The principles of taxation.** Ever since the Revolutionary War it has been settled in the United States that *the people alone shall have power to tax themselves*. This does not mean that each person shall have the power to say how much he will or will not pay to the Government. Nor does it mean necessarily that all the people must come together to determine this question directly. It does mean, however, that taxes can be levied only by those whom the people themselves choose, and to whom they give the power to impose taxes.

The second principle of taxation is that as nearly as possible *people shall be taxed according to what they can afford to pay*. If we look at the benefits which each of us gets from the Government, this is perhaps not wholly just. The rich man, who pays large taxes, receives no more benefit from well-kept streets and parks, and from the many things which the Government does to protect the health of the community, than does the poor man, who pays little or no taxes. On the other hand, if the wealthy

citizen owns large property interests, he does receive a great deal of protection from the Government which the poor citizen, owning no property, does not need. At any rate, this plan of taxing the individuals of a community according to their ability to pay is the most just principle for the levying of taxes that has yet been discovered.

The third principle in our system of taxes is that *taxes must be equally and impartially laid*. All people of a certain class and all property of a certain class must be taxed alike. This means that the Government cannot, for instance, lay a tax of a certain amount on one man's farm or factory and refuse to lay a like tax on a similar farm or factory belonging to another man.

These are perhaps the three most important principles of taxation. They form the basis of most of our methods of raising money for the support of the Government.

**62. Taxes on property: real estate.** In every community taxes are levied on a great variety of things, but the chief thing taxed is property. The law provides that all the owners of property shall pay annually to the Government a certain per cent of the value of their property. When this property consists of land and houses—or *real estate*, as it is called—it is easy to determine who shall pay the taxes, and usually it is easy to fix the amount to be paid.

The Government appoints certain officers to estimate what the value of each piece of property is. This is called *assessing the property*, and these officers are called *assessors*. The taxes are then paid on the property in accordance with its assessed value.

Naturally it is sometimes difficult to fix the value of a given piece of property. In order, therefore, that the owner may not be unjustly taxed, property is generally assessed at somewhat less than its actual value. Suppose



a farm would bring, if sold, about ten thousand dollars. The assessors would probably place its valuation at eight thousand dollars. If then the rate of taxation was two per cent, the owner would be required to pay the Government every year two per cent of eight thousand dollars, or one hundred and sixty dollars. This custom of assessing property below its real value is pretty general, although the law requires that property be assessed in full.

**63. Taxes on personal property.** Where the individual's property consists of farming implements, cattle, furniture, jewelry, books, and even money, it becomes very difficult to collect the taxes levied upon it. These things are called *personal property*. You can readily understand that it is easy for the owners of such property to deceive the officers of the Government by refusing to acknowledge all that they possess. Unfortunately people cannot be relied upon to tell the truth about these things, and the result is that only the honest man, who is willing to tell the whole truth, pays the full amount of taxes laid on his personal property. With lands and houses it is different, for such things cannot be hid. In all countries, however, taxes on personal property have proved to be more or less a failure.

**64. Other important forms of taxation.** *1. Income taxes.* Not only does the Government in Virginia tax property owned by individuals, it also lays a tax on incomes exceeding six hundred dollars. Many men receive large salaries and have other sources from which they get an income, although they do not own property. It is not just that these men should be entirely free from taxation. This is the reason why the Government places a tax on incomes. As in the case of personal property, these taxes are difficult to collect. The officers of the Government have to rely largely on the individual's willingness to declare exactly

what his income is. In order that men receiving small salaries may not be taxed, the law provides that six hundred dollars out of each income shall always be exempt from taxation.

2. *License taxes.* A tax known as a license is imposed by the Government for permission to conduct certain kinds of business, as for instance peddling, pawn-broking, and saloon-keeping. The object of these licenses is not only to get revenue for the Government, but also to regulate the business. It is often desirable to prevent too many people from undertaking a business which is not helpful to the best interests of the community.

3. *Franchise taxes.* Certain companies and corporations are taxed for privileges which they enjoy. These taxes are called franchise taxes. Railroads, for instance, pay such taxes for the privilege of operating in the State. The street railways, and the telephone and telegraph companies pay similar taxes for the use of the streets.

4. *The poll-tax.* On every male resident of the State a tax not exceeding \$1.50 is levied. This is called a poll or capitation tax, and no man can vote in Virginia who has not paid this tax. (See page 144.)

5. *Special assessments.* When streets or alleys are paved, and when sewers are laid, it sometimes happens that the owners of property bordering along the streets and alleys receive more benefit from these improvements than any one else in the community. The value of their property is increased by such improvements, and it seems only just that they should be made to pay a part of the expense. The Government provides that a special tax shall be levied against the owners of such property, and these taxes are known as special assessments. The owners cannot, how-

ever, be taxed beyond the amount by which the value of their property is increased because of these improvements.

**65. Property that is not taxed.** In every community in Virginia certain property is free from taxation. It would be absurd for the Government to tax its own property—its public buildings, schoolhouses, roads, and streets. This would mean only that the Government was paying itself taxes. Certain other classes of property also are free from taxation. Public libraries, colleges, and other educational institutions, church buildings and ministers' residences, the property belonging to Young Men's Christian Associations and charitable institutions—all of these are free from the tax laws. Such property as this is not taxed because, although private in its character, it is in reality used for the benefit of the whole community.

**66. General and local taxes.** Some of these taxes we have been discussing are laid upon property and other things in all parts of the State. These are imposed by the Government of the State for the purpose of carrying on those affairs in which the whole State is concerned—that is, for the support of the State Government. In addition to these general taxes, each community levies taxes for community purposes. The counties impose taxes in order to meet the expenses of the county Government—to pay the salaries of county officers, to build roads, to maintain schools. (See chapter XIII.) The cities impose taxes to pay the salaries of city officers, and to meet the many other expenses of the city Government. (See chapter XIV.) Taxes in cities are usually much higher than they are in the counties because of the many different things which city communities find it necessary to undertake—things which benefit no one beyond the city limits. We shall understand this difference between State and local taxes

more fully a little later in our study. (See page 97.) The important thing for you to remember is that a part of the taxes we pay goes to the support of our State Government, and another part to the support of our community Government.

This is only a brief outline of the general system of taxation in Virginia. It will serve to show you, however, some of the ways by which the Government is enabled to get sufficient money to carry on all those operations which it undertakes for the benefit of the people.

### QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Has any public building been erected in your community recently? Try to find out how much it cost. Did the county, city, or State pay for the building? Why? Try to find out how the money was raised. Explain how this building is used for the benefit of the people of your community.

2. How is money raised for the improvement of roads in your county? Try to find out what the tax assessment for roads is. Who determines this assessment?

3. How are the schools supported in your county? Try to find out what the school assessment is. Have any new schoolhouses been built recently? How much did they cost? Try to find out what part of the school expenses are paid by your county authorities and what part by the State.

4. In what ways that you can think of do people in your community receive benefits from the taxes they pay? Explain why it is dishonest to avoid paying taxes. Explain why it is wrong to look upon taxes as oppression.

5. What part did the question of taxation play in the causes of our Revolutionary War? What principle of taxation was in consequence established in America?

6. In what ways that you can think of does the owner of property get special benefits by paying the large taxes that are assessed upon him?

7. What is the difference between real estate and personal property? Do you own any real estate? Any personal property? Explain why it is easier to collect taxes on the one than it is on the other.

8. What is meant by assessing property for taxation? Try to find out whether property in your community is said to be assessed high or low. What does this mean?

9. What property that you can think of in your community is free from taxation? Why is it not taxed? Is your school building taxed? Why?

10. Mention the other forms of taxation in Virginia, and explain what is meant by each.



## CHAPTER VIII

### WHAT THE CONSTITUTION IS

**67. The origin of the Constitution.** You will all remember, no doubt, that during the period of our history before the Revolutionary War, each of the thirteen colonies in America was under the control of the crown or the Parliament of England. The colony exercised only those rights and powers which the English Government permitted. That Government also determined very largely how its laws should be made and appointed the colonial Governor. Under this system the colonists actually enjoyed a large degree of self-government—that is to say, they were permitted to make most of the laws by which they were governed and to choose most of their governmental officers.

Up to 1775, when the Revolutionary War broke out, Virginia was governed in this manner. The war, however, freed the colonies from the control of the mother country; and the colonists were forced to provide some other form of government. Lord Dunmore, the colonial Governor, fled for his life; the House of Burgesses, the law-making body of the colony, dissolved itself; and the old Government passed away. Something had to be done, for the people could not exist without any Government. And this is what happened. In May, 1776, a convention composed of two delegates from each county in Virginia met at Williamsburg and drew up a document providing for a form of government very similar to that which had existed during the colonial period. This written document desig-

nated what officers should be chosen and how they should be chosen, what powers these officers should have, and who should make and administer the laws. This is what we mean by a Constitution. *It is a written document framed by delegates representing the whole people of the State and providing in outline the organization of the Government.*

This Constitution was adopted on the 29th of June, 1776, five days before the Declaration of Independence was passed. So far as history records, it was the first written Constitution of a permanent character ever framed in America, or indeed in any country. What did it mean? It meant simply this: that the power to determine the form of Government in Virginia, which before had belonged to the English crown, now belonged to the people. Of course it was impossible for the whole people of the State to meet together and draw up this Constitution. So a convention representing the people undertook the task.

**68. The history of Virginia's Constitutions.** There were naturally many defects in this first Constitution, framed in such haste at the outbreak of our war for independence. It is marvelous indeed that it was strong enough to last fifty-four years. Its two chief defects were: (1) Only men of considerable property could vote or hold office. As Thomas Jefferson ironically remarked, the Government of Virginia was in the hands of those who were "distinguished by the luxury and ostentation of their establishments." (2) The people in the different parts of the State were not equally represented in the law-making body—that is, they did not enjoy an equal share in their own Government. As time went on, these defects became more and more unbearable.

Soon after the Revolutionary War adventurers began to push in large numbers across the Alleghany Mountains

into what is now West Virginia, but was then an unsettled wilderness. This movement of population during the early years of the nineteenth century was very rapid. By 1815 two-fifths of the white population lived beyond the mountains. They were for the most part poor pioneers. Few of them owned enough property to vote. There were few large plantations and few slaves. In fact, the whole character of these people differed from that of the inhabitants of the eastern part of the State. Under the Constitution of 1776 they had little share in the Government. They were allowed to hold almost no offices, and they did not have a fair representation in the body which made laws for the State.

For years the people of western Virginia clamored for changes in the Constitution. But it was only after a long and bitter struggle that a convention finally met at Richmond in the winter of 1829-30 and drew up a new Constitution. This second Constitution did not prove very satisfactory, however, and in 1850-51 a third Constitution was framed by a convention representing the people of the State.

The Constitution of 1851 lasted throughout the period of the War between the States. This war, as you all know, wrought great changes in the South. It was during the terrible period of reconstruction, in December, 1867, that the fourth constitutional convention came together. It did not represent the people of Virginia. Its membership was composed almost entirely of Northerners and of recently freed negroes. The Constitution which they adopted was known as the Underwood Constitution, taking its name from the president of the convention. It was by no means wholly bad, however, and the people of Virginia lived

under it, with a few changes, for a period of more than thirty years.

**69. Our present Constitution.** In 1901-02 our fifth and last convention met and framed the Constitution under which we now live. The chief reforms which the people felt it was necessary to make were: (1) a reduction in the number of officers in the State, and consequently in the expenses of the Government; and (2) the placing of new conditions upon the right to vote. (See page 144.)

Our present Constitution is a long document, covering many printed pages. The convention which framed it sat for twelve months fully and carefully considering the great work before them. The Constitution provides in detail how the Government shall be organized; it enumerates all the chief officers of the Government and outlines their powers and duties; it determines who shall have the right to vote and hold the various offices; and it provides for local Governments in the different communities of the State. It is the duty of the law-making body to pass such laws as may be necessary for carrying out the scheme of Government provided for in the Constitution.

**70. The importance of the Constitution.** When we were discussing how our liberties are protected in the community, (see chapter IV), we learned that we possess certain rights which not even the Government can deny to us. This is because the powers of the Government are restricted by the Constitution. (See page 43.) The Government can pass no law and do no act which violates the Constitution. It is the highest law of the State. It is because of this importance that the people of the State will not trust the ordinary law-making body to change the Constitution. Such changes must be submitted to a vote of the people. And in case a new Constitution is needed, a

special convention must be called for the purpose of drawing it up.

In the chapters which follow we shall see how the machinery of the Government is organized under this recent Constitution, and how the Government is enabled to assist the people of Virginia in so many ways. It will be unnecessary, therefore, for us to consider here in detail the splendid work of that convention which met in Richmond in 1901-02 and determined upon our present form of government.

### QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. How were we governed in Virginia during the colonial period? Who determined our form of Government? Were we permitted to make any of our laws? To choose any of our officers? How did the Revolutionary War change our situation?
2. Who determines our form of Government today? How is this done? What is meant by a Constitution? How many Constitutions have we had in Virginia? How were these Constitutions drawn up?
3. Explain how the Constitution protects our liberties. Against whom are they protected? How may the Constitution be changed? Why may our law-makers not change it?
4. When was our present Constitution framed? By whom was it framed? Find out, if you can, the names of any of the members of the convention of 1901-02. Who represented your county or city?



## CHAPTER IX

### HOW THE GOVERNMENT IS ORGANIZED

#### 71. What is meant by the departments of Government.

From the very beginning of constitutional Government in America the people have believed that the laws ought not to be made, explained, and put into operation by the same men or group of men. Whenever so much power is given over to one group of men, there is danger that they will oppress the people. It is an important principle of our Government, therefore, that there shall be one group of men to make the laws, another group to put them into operation, and a third group to explain or interpret what the laws mean. These three groups of officers form the three great *departments* of Government. Those who make the laws are known as the *Legislative Department*. Those who see that the laws are carried out, or executed, compose the *Executive Department*. And those whose duty it is to determine what the law means when it is applied to a particular case are the *Judicial Department*.

**72. The State Government.** As you all know, some of the duties which the Government undertakes to perform concern the people of the State as a whole. Take, for instance, laws that provide for the punishment of criminals. A crime is just as likely to be committed in one part of the State as in another. It is very clear, therefore, that *all* the people are concerned in such laws. This is only a single instance among a great many matters in which the people of the whole State have a common interest and concern.

You see that it would never do for any particular county or city to make laws for itself in regard to matters of so great importance. This must be done by the Government which represents the people of the whole State. We call this the State Government. It is this Government which makes most of the laws that we must obey; and as we have seen, it is supported by levying taxes upon the people of the whole State. (See page 88.)

**73. Local Government.** *The city.* You can easily think of many things undertaken by the Government in city communities which do not concern the people of the whole State. Take, for example, the laws in regard to keeping the streets clean. This is a matter which does not at all affect the people in the country districts, or even people of any other city. The cities of Virginia have many duties to perform which are purely of local interest. They are permitted, therefore, to have Governments of their own for the management of city affairs, and to make such local regulations as may be necessary.

*The county.* You probably know of many things also that are of chief concern to the county undertaking them. The building of roads, for instance, is a matter in which the people of each particular county are especially interested. It is looked upon, therefore, as a matter which should be undertaken and controlled largely by the counties. The conditions of the rural districts are very different from those of the cities. For this reason the Constitution provides for another kind of local Government to be established in the counties.

*The town.* Still another form of Government is provided for towns. Their inhabitants live more closely together than do the residents of counties, but towns are not

so large as cities and do not find it necessary to have such complicated governments. (See page 139.)

We see, therefore, that under the State Government, which regulates the affairs of the whole State, there are three forms of local Government—the city, the town, and the county. To these local Governments, the Constitution and the State legislature give certain powers to regulate local affairs; and as we have seen, they are supported by taxes raised for local purposes. Not only the State Government but the local Governments also are divided into the three great departments—legislative, executive, and judicial. Local laws are made, enforced, and interpreted by three separate groups of officers.

### QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Which of the three kinds of local Government has your community? Mention some of the things undertaken in your community which seem to you to be of local rather than State interest. Why are local Governments necessary? Why are there three forms? How are they supported? Mention any officers of your community that you know of.

2. Why is the State Government necessary? Who determines the powers and duties of the local Governments? Does the progress of your community depend more largely upon the State or your local Government? Mention any officers of the State Government that you know of.

3. Would the State Government or your local Government be most likely to make laws on the following subjects: (a) the paving of streets? (b) the building of a schoolhouse? (c) the regulating of a poorhouse? (d) riding bicycles on the sidewalks? (e) fire-escapes on buildings? (f) the placing of wires underground? (g) the speed of street cars? (h) the fencing in of farms and lots? (i) vaccination? (j) the sale of liquors? (k) posting bills on trees or posts? (l) the repairing of roads? (m) the building of a court-house?

## CHAPTER X

### HOW THE LAWS ARE MADE

74. The legislature, or law-making body. In Virginia the branch of the Government that makes the laws for the State is divided into two bodies, or houses, as they are called. Every measure proposed in either one of these houses must be agreed to by the other before it becomes a law. This prevents laws from being hastily made. One of these houses is known as the *House of Delegates* and the other as the *Senate*. Together they constitute the legislature of the State and are known as the *General Assembly of Virginia*.

The Constitution prescribes that the House of Delegates shall never consist of less than ninety or more than one hundred members, and that the whole number of senators shall not exceed forty or be less than thirty-three. The House of Delegates is, therefore, much larger than the Senate. For the purpose of electing delegates, the entire State is divided into *house districts*. The General Assembly itself determines what counties and cities shall be grouped together to form a district, as well as the number of delegates to be elected in each district. As nearly as possible each delegate represents the same number of people. Populous districts, whether consisting of a single large city or county, or of a group of counties and cities, are given more than one delegate, but the majority of districts have only one. The members of the House of Delegates are elected by the voters of their districts once every two years, in November.

For the purpose of electing senators, the State is also divided into *senatorial districts*; but since the Senate is smaller than the lower house, these districts are much larger than the house districts, or else they have fewer senators than delegates. The apportionment is made, however, so that the senators, like the delegates, represent about the same number of people each. Senators are elected at the same time that delegates are chosen, but once only in four years. Thus a senator holds office twice as long as a delegate.

The General Assembly meets in the January following the November elections—that is, once in every two years. In the past it has sometimes happened that the legislature, when it came together, would dally over the making of laws for a long period of time without accomplishing very much. This was a great expense to the people of the State, since law-makers are paid for their time and services. The Constitution now requires that the General Assembly shall close its session after sixty days. In case of necessity, however, the session may be extended thirty days longer, providing three-fifths of the members of each house agree to the extension. Moreover, extra sessions may be called by the Governor under extraordinary circumstances.

#### **75. How the General Assembly is organized for business.**

The Constitution gives each house of the General Assembly the power to choose its own officers, and to determine the rules by which its debates and other affairs must be conducted. The one exception to this is that the Lieutenant-Governor of the State (see page 111) must preside over the Senate. The presiding officer of the House of Delegates is called the *Speaker*. His position is one of great importance and influence, for it is he who chooses the committees to report on laws that are proposed. In addition to



the presiding officer there are a number of other officers and clerks in each house.

Each member has his own desk, and these desks are arranged in rows facing the presiding officer's chair. Visitors are usually prohibited from coming upon the "floor" of the House. Galleries are provided, however, to which the public is freely admitted.



THE HALL OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

**76. How a measure becomes a law.** Nearly every member who is elected to the General Assembly comes with the idea of getting certain measures enacted into laws. Sometimes the people who elect him express their desire to have this or that law passed. Sometimes an individual citizen

asks a member to present a proposition for a law. Frequently also the Governor and the other important officers, who are thoroughly in touch with the needs of the State, desire certain laws enacted.

Formerly when the business of the Government was less complicated than it is to-day, it was the usual custom for any member to propose a measure and have it discussed before the house. As time went on, however, and business increased, it became necessary to adopt some other method. It was found that the time of the legislature was consumed in the discussion of many unimportant propositions, while others of vital interest were delayed because of the general confusion and the lack of time. The system adopted to remedy this evil is known as the *committee system*. Let us see what the committee system means.

Each member of either house still has the right to introduce any measure that he sees fit. The measure when introduced, instead of being taken up at once for debate, is referred to an appropriate committee. Provision is made for a number of standing committees in each house, and each committee has for its consideration measures that relate to one particular department of the Government's work. In the committee room the proposed measure is talked over and worked over. Later the committee makes a report to the house, recommending either that the measure be passed or that it be voted down.

When the committee reports a measure, it comes before the house in the form of a *bill*. The house opens debate on the bill after it has been printed and read on three separate days. The bill may be changed by the house in any way, or it may be rejected. The house is largely influenced, however, by the report of the committee which has made a special investigation of the subject. In case

the bill is passed in one house, it must then be sent to the other house where it may be approved or voted down.

This is the manner in which every measure proceeds through the legislature. The committee system makes it possible to handle many propositions in the short term of sixty days. It also provides for a careful consideration of every proposal.

**77. What the legislature may and may not do.** The General Assembly may pass any law which it is not forbidden by the Constitution to pass, or which does not conflict with the laws made by the national Government at Washington. It is necessary for the Constitution to specify only those things which the legislature may *not* do. Chief among the restrictions placed upon the legislature are those which secure to the people certain privileges, such as the freedom of speech and religion, and the right not to have property taken from them by the Government without just compensation. (See chapter IV.)

The legislature is also prohibited from passing what is known as "special acts" in regard to a long series of subjects. This is to prevent the time of the law-makers from being taken up in enacting laws for a particular locality, or a special individual, and also to secure to every person in the State equal rights before the law.

Aside from these restrictions upon the powers of the legislature, the General Assembly may pass any act it pleases. It is not necessary for us to examine in detail what the nature of these laws is. It is sufficient to say that they regulate, among numerous other things, business relations, property relations, and the marriage relations of the people of the State, and provide for the raising of taxes, the educational interests, and the affairs of railways and other corporations.

**78. Where the legislature meets.** Long ago you learned in your study of geography that Richmond is the capital of the State of Virginia. This means that the General Assembly and the principal offices of the State Government are located at Richmond. In a handsome park, beautifully laid out and containing many splendid statues and monuments, stands the capitol building in which the legislature holds its sessions. (See frontispiece.) The central portion of this building was built in 1833. Within its walls have been heard some of the most distinguished men that have figured in the history of the United States. Here, too, the Congress of the Confederacy sat. Because of its age and the many historical associations that cluster about it, this building has become very dear to the people of Virginia. With the growth of the business of the Government, however, it became entirely inadequate, and a few years ago it was found necessary to add two large wings to the central structure. The original building was preserved, and the increased needs of the Government were provided for by the additions.

**79. Influences upon the law-makers.** When a man has been chosen to the legislature as the representative of some community of the State, many people suppose that it is a very simple matter for him to determine what measures will be for the best interests of the people, and for him always to vote honestly and intelligently. Perhaps it ought to be, but as a matter of fact a great many influences are brought to bear upon members of the legislature of which most of us know very little. In the first place, a member usually desires to be re-elected at the end of his term of office. Sometimes the voters who have elected him are controlled by a man known as the *political boss* of the community. The member realizes that he must, to



some extent at least, act so as to please this boss if he is to hope for re-election.

Then again, when a measure is proposed that is disadvantageous to some large corporation, or to the people engaged in a certain kind of business (as for instance the liquor business), all sorts of efforts are made to induce the law-makers to ignore the interests of the people. Shrewd lawyers and other crafty men are sent to Richmond to use their influence upon the members of the legislature, and to convince them, if possible, that the proposed measure is *not* for the interests of the people. This is called *lobbying*. Many bad laws are made, and many good measures fail to be enacted by reason of the influence which unscrupulous *lobbyists* frequently use. You must not think, however, that all lobbying is of this sort. Many good men also go before the committees of the legislature and lobby with its members to secure the passage of wise laws.

Again, the law-makers are severely criticised by the newspapers, and sometimes this criticism is unjust. It is a very difficult matter for a man in public life to please everybody and to do only what is right. Our law-makers have no easy task. If some of them do not serve the people as they should, we ought to remember that we are partly responsible for this. It is the duty of the people in every community to choose as their representatives in the law-making body of the State the most intelligent and the most honorable men that can be induced to serve. And it is the duty of the member thus chosen to follow his sound judgment on every question before him. He should consider always only the best interests of the State, regardless of his personal ambitions, and in spite of the influences which seek at times to turn him aside.



## QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. What is the law-making body of the State of Virginia called? Into what two bodies is it divided? Does your city or county constitute a house district by itself? If not, find out what other communities are grouped with it to form your house district. Find out, if you can, how many representatives your district has in the House of Delegates. Do you know the names of any present representatives?

2. If you live in a county, find out what other counties are grouped with yours to form your senatorial district. If you live in a city, find out if your city constitutes a senatorial district by itself. If not, what other communities are grouped with it? Find out, if you can, the name of the present senator, or senators, from your district.

3. Who presides over the Senate? Over the House of Delegates? Have you ever been to the capitol building at Richmond? If so, describe the park. Describe the building. If you have seen the chambers in which the houses meet, describe them. (See page 100.) Have you ever seen the houses in session?

4. Suppose you desired to have a certain law passed, how would you go about it? Explain in full how such a measure would become a law after being introduced into one of the houses by some member. What is meant by the committee system?

5. What is meant by a political boss? What is meant by lobbying? Explain how the bosses and lobbyists hinder and corrupt the law-makers. How can the people of any community prevent this?

6. When does the next General Assembly meet? How long will it probably sit? Might it sit longer? Why is the length of the sessions of the General Assembly limited by the Constitution?

## CHAPTER XI

### HOW THE LAWS ARE PUT INTO OPERATION

80. **The chief executive officers.** After the laws have been passed by the legislature, it is necessary that there should be officers to see that these laws are carried out. The enforcement of both State and local laws is intrusted very largely to local officers chosen in the various communities of the State. Take, for example, the assessment and collection of the taxes imposed by the General Assembly; these matters are attended to by county and city officers. It is the city police or the county constables who arrest offenders who violate the laws of the State that protect life and property. In the actual enforcement of the laws, the individual in any community usually comes in contact with county and city officers rather than State officers. In addition to these, however, there are certain officers at Richmond whose duty it is to see that the various acts of the General Assembly are properly executed.

Chief among the State officers is the Governor. We look upon him as the head of the executive department of the Government—that is, the department which puts the laws into operation. (See page 96.) But the Governor is not the only executive officer of the State. Certain duties and powers are assigned to other officers. Among the most important of these are the Lieutenant-Governor, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Attorney General, the State Treasurer, the State Auditor, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and numerous commissions and

boards. Let us see how these various officers are chosen and what their duties and powers are.

**81. The Governor.** We in Virginia have had a Governor ever since the colony was first established. During the colonial period the position of Governor was one of great dignity and importance, but many of the colonial Governors were hated by the colonists. They were appointed by the



A SECTION OF CAPITOL SQUARE, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA  
Showing the West entrance of the Capitol Building, in which most of the  
State executive offices are located. The Governor's mansion  
is seen dimly in the background.

crown in England, and frequently they opposed the colonists and sought to govern them with an iron hand.

After our independence was won, the Governor of Virginia was for many years chosen by the General Assembly; but the people were afraid to give him any great amount of power. They did not stop to think that there is a great difference between a Governor chosen by their own repre-

representatives in the legislature and a Governor named by a king more than three thousand miles away. His position, however, continued to be one of social importance. Even today the Governor of Virginia is spoken of as "His Excellency," while the President of the United States is only "Mr. President." Since 1851 the Governor has been elected directly by the people. His position today is not only one of great dignity, but of great influence in the affairs of the State Government.

**82. Powers and duties of the Governor.** The Governor's powers and duties are outlined in the Constitution of the State. From time to time also the legislature lays duties upon him in connection with the work of carrying out the laws. The Constitution says that he "shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed." This does not mean that he is to superintend every policeman or other minor officer whose duty it is to execute the laws. It means simply that he shall stand ready to use the forces at his command in order that the laws shall be properly observed throughout the State. The Governor's powers and duties are various. Perhaps it may be well for us to classify them:

1. *The Governor's power over legislation.* By reason of his position at the head of the Government, the Governor is usually more or less in touch with the needs of the State, and with matters which ought to be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. He is required, therefore, to send a *message* to the legislature when it assembles. In this message he recommends certain measures which he thinks ought to be made laws. During the session of the General Assembly he is usually in constant communication with the law-makers and gives them his advice upon measures and bills that come up for con-

sideration. He is empowered also, in case he deems it necessary, to call at any time an extra session of the General Assembly. Before any bill that has passed both houses of the legislature can become a law, it must be signed by the Governor. If he does not approve the bill, he may refuse to sign it—or, as this is generally called, he may *veto* it and return it to the legislature with his objections to the measure. In case the Governor vetoes a bill, it cannot become a law unless it is again passed in both houses of the legislature by a majority vote of two-thirds. You see, therefore, that the Governor possesses a great deal of power and influence over the making of our laws.

2. *The Governor's power to supervise other officers.* It is the duty of the Governor to keep himself informed as to how the other officers of the State are performing their duties. He may require any information of them, or he may at any time inspect their books. When the General Assembly is not in session (and you remember that the legislature usually convenes only for sixty days every two years), he has the power to suspend any officer of the State, except the Lieutenant-Governor, for misbehavior or because he is not properly performing his duty. He is required to report the whole circumstances of the suspension to the next General Assembly.

3. *The Governor's power over the militia.* In the various communities of the State, volunteer militia companies are formed, and citizens residing in these communities, usually the young men, become members of these companies. These constitute together what is known as the *militia* of the State. Ordinarily they have no active duties to perform. Sometimes, however, when a riot breaks out, or a mob arises, or a strike becomes threatening, it is the



duty of the Governor to call out the militia and send them in haste to the scene of the disorder. (See page 27.) By the Constitution he is made commander-in-chief of the military forces of the State.

4. *The Governor's pardoning power.* Sometimes persons are convicted of crime against the laws of the State and are sentenced to punishment. For one reason or another it may be brought to the Governor's attention that a person so convicted ought not to be punished to the full extent of his sentence. The Governor has the power to pardon, to shorten the sentence, or to remit the fine of any one convicted of violating the law. He does this only in exceptional cases; he does not allow those who ought to be punished to play upon his sympathies. But when once a case has been finally decided in the courts (see page 117), it is impossible for the courts to take it up again; and it is very necessary and proper that some one should have the power to pardon.

From what has been said you can see that the Governor has large powers and many important duties to perform. He must be a man of great force and great ability. Not only this, but the Constitution requires that he shall be a citizen of the United States, thirty years old, and that he shall have resided in Virginia for five years preceding his election. He is elected by the people for a term of four years. At the same time that he is elected, another officer called the *Lieutenant-Governor* is chosen, who, in case the Governor dies or for any reason is unable to perform his duties, takes the place of the Governor.

83. **The duties of the other executive officers.** 1. *The Secretary of the Commonwealth's* duty is to assist the Governor in various ways and to keep a record of his acts. He is chosen by the people of the State at the same time and

for the same term as the Governor. Certain other duties are laid upon him by law, but it is unnecessary for our purposes to inquire into them. 2. *The Attorney General* is elected by the people at the same time and for the same term as the Governor. He is the chief law-officer of the State. It is his duty to give his opinion to the other officers on questions of law, and in case the State of Virginia sues, or is sued he represents the State before the courts. 3. *The State Treasurer* is also chosen by the people and has the power to pay out from the treasury of the State such money as he may be properly authorized to pay. 4. *The State Auditor*, who is chosen not by the people but by the General Assembly, receives the money collected by the tax collectors in the various communities of the State and deposits it in the State treasury. He has many other important duties connected with the collection of taxes and has charge of all claims made against the State. It is the Auditor, therefore, who, in most cases, issues the orders upon which the Treasurer makes payments. There is also a *Second Auditor* who has many duties to perform in connection with the financial matters of the State. 5. *The Commissioner of Agriculture and Immigration* is elected by the people at the same time and for the same term as the Governor. He is assisted and directed by a *Board of Agriculture and Immigration*, the members of which are appointed by the Governor. It is his duty to gather information in regard to the climate, soil, crops, and minerals of the State, and to give this information to farmers and others desiring it. He encourages and assists the farmer and cattle-raiser, and he endeavors to show to people outside the State the advantages of settling in Virginia.

**84. How the public school system is organized.** The chief executive officer of the public school system in Vir-

ginia is the *Superintendent of Public Instruction*. He is elected by the people at the same time and for the same term as the Governor. His duties are so numerous and varied that it would be impossible to describe them briefly. He exercises a general supervision over the entire public school system of the State and seeks in every way to encourage the improvement of schools and to awaken interest in public education. He exerts his influence with the legislature to secure appropriations for the schools and to have wise laws enacted in the interest of the public school system.

The Superintendent is assisted and directed by the *State Board of Education*. This Board consists of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (who is its president), the Governor, the Attorney General, three members chosen from the faculties of the State institutions of higher learning (see page 58), and one county and one city superintendent of schools. The Board possesses large powers over the educational system of the State, having "authority to make all needful rules and regulations for the management and conduct of the schools."

The Superintendent of Public Instruction is also assisted in many ways by the *State Board of Examiners*. This board consists of five men appointed by the Board of Education. For the work of this board the entire State is divided into five circuits, one of which is assigned to each examiner. It is the duty of the examiners to examine and issue licenses to those who desire to teach in the public schools. They also travel about in their circuits holding teachers' institutes and forming citizens' leagues for the purpose of arousing interest in, and advancing the cause of, public education.

The State Superintendent, the State Board of Educa-

tion, and the Board of Examiners are the principal State executive officers of the school system. In addition to these, there are in each community of the State local officers whose duty it is to supervise and provide for the schools. Let us see how the local school authorities are organized.

In each community there is a local superintendent called the *division superintendent*. His appointment is made by the State Board of Education and approved by a vote of the Senate. He has the power to supervise and regulate, in accordance with the rules laid down by the Board of Education, all the schools in his division. Usually his division consists of a single county or city; but sometimes two counties or a county and a city are placed under one division superintendent.

Each county of the State is divided into a number of school districts. The division superintendent, the commonwealth's attorney (see page 129), and one resident of the county appointed by the judge of the circuit court (see page 118) choose the school trustees for each district. This *district board of trustees* appoints teachers for the district and otherwise looks after the interests of the schools. The whole number of district trustees in any one county constitute the *county school board*, whose duty it is to assist and direct the division superintendent.

The members of the *city school board* are either elected by the people or by the city council (see page 138) and have powers similar to those of the county school board.

You see, therefore, that Virginia has provided an elaborate system of officers for the regulation of matters relating to the public schools. A part of the money for the support of the schools is annually appropriated by the General Assembly and distributed by the State Department



of Public Instruction. A substantial sum is also realized from the interest on the Literary Fund. (See page 51.) But a much larger part must be raised by local taxation. In many communities also the schools are assisted by endowments and subscriptions made by private individuals. Indeed the efficiency of the schools in any community is dependent largely upon the willingness of the people of *that community* to pay for the improvement of the schools.

### QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION.

1. If the General Assembly lays a tax upon certain property throughout the State, what officers in your community would put this law into execution? If a man commits a crime in your community, is he arrested by a local or a State officer? Has he violated a local or a State law?

2. Who is the present Governor of Virginia? How and when was he chosen? How much longer has he to serve? Do you know anything about his life? What qualifications as to age, citizenship, and residence must he possess?

3. What is meant by the Governor's message? Why does the law require him to send a message? What is meant by his veto? How may it be overcome?

4. What control does the Governor have over the other executive officers? What is his position in the militia? What is meant by his pardoning power? If he should die in office, who would succeed him? What duty has the Lieutenant-Governor? (See page 101.)

5. Mention some of the other executive officers at Richmond. Tell how each of them is chosen and what you know of their respective duties.

6. Describe how the public school system of the State is organized. Who is the present Superintendent of Public Instruction? When and how was he chosen?

7. Who is the Superintendent of Schools in your county or city? How is he chosen? What are his duties? What is the county or city school board? Do you know any of its members in your community? Who appoints teachers in your community?



## CHAPTER XII

### HOW THE LAWS ARE EXPLAINED AND APPLIED

**85. The necessity for courts of law.** We have already seen how the laws in Virginia are framed and passed by the General Assembly. We have seen, too, that there is a group of officers, with the Governor at their head, whose duty it is to put these laws into execution. These legislative and executive departments of the Government, however, are not sufficient completely to carry out the plan of the Government.

You can easily understand how people will sometimes differ in opinion as to what the law really means, and how laws may sometimes conflict with one another. Moreover, it is often very difficult to find out the truth about a matter to which the law is supposed to apply. For instance, a dispute may arise as to which of two parties owns a piece of property; each party may claim that he has the right to it under the law. Similar disputes might arise over a debt, or over an agreement or contract between two parties. These disputes may be very complicated, involving many points to be considered.

Suppose a man is accused of some offense against the laws of the State, as for instance, robbery or murder. Whatever punishment is to be inflicted upon him will depend on two things. First, it will depend on the facts of the case, involving the question of whether he really committed the crime, and if so, whether it was partially or

wholly justifiable. Second, it will depend on what particular law in regard to punishment will apply to the circumstances under which the crime was committed.

Now it must be very clear to you that every time an attempt is made to apply the law to a particular case, many questions must arise in regard to the facts of the case and the meaning of the law which is applied to these facts. There must, therefore, be a judicial department of government, whose duty it is to interpret the laws and apply them in particular instances. This part of the Government's work is accomplished by means of the courts.

**86. How the courts protect us.** It is the courts that constitute our strongest protection against injustice. If any individual of the community feels that an injury has been done him by another member of the community contrary to the law, he applies to the courts to determine the matter. If he feels that the officers of the government are overstepping their authority and are trampling upon his rights and liberties, he goes to the courts with his grievance. If a bad member of the community commits a crime, it is the courts that examine into the facts and circumstances of the case and determine what his punishment shall be in accordance with the law. Few people pass through life without on some occasion finding it necessary to seek the assistance or the protection of the courts.

**87. The system of courts in Virginia.** As we have just seen, the courts of law are the real protectors of our rights and liberties. Because of this, it is a fundamental principle of justice among the English-speaking people that there must be in every community at least one court for the settlement of these perplexing questions of fact and law. That is to say, every man must have this protection within his reach.

The system of courts in Virginia by which this is accomplished is somewhat complicated. There are a number of different kinds of courts, each with certain limits to the powers that it may exercise. It is unnecessary for us to examine in detail the powers, or *jurisdiction*, as it is usually called, of these various courts. It will be sufficient for us to get a general idea of the judicial system of the State. There are in the main four classes of courts:

1. *The Justice's or Police Court.* In every county in Virginia there are a number of justices of the peace (see page 129), whose duty it is to hold courts for the trial of petty offenses against the laws of the State and the county. In the cities, likewise, there is a similar court usually called the police court. These justice's courts constitute the most numerous branch of courts in the State. It must be remembered, however, that they have authority to try only such petty offenses as are punishable by small fines or short terms of imprisonment in jail. They can also determine disputes in regard to property and debts where only small amounts are involved. In many instances even after a case has been decided in these lowest courts of the State, the law provides that it may be carried to the next higher court, and there be reviewed.

2. *The Circuit Court.* Next above the justices's courts are a number of courts known as circuit courts. In all there are thirty such courts in Virginia. For this purpose the whole State is divided into thirty *judicial circuits*. Each circuit consists of a number of counties or a county and a city. The court of any circuit is held, as the occasion may demand, in this or that county or city of the circuit; and from the fact that it moves from place to place it takes its name, the "circuit" court. It is this court which has the authority to hear by far the larger number



SCENE IN A COURT ROOM

At the desk in the center sits the judge. To his right and left are the sheriff and the clerk of the court. To the right of the picture, with his back to the foreground, sits the prisoner. The other men grouped about the judge's desk are the prisoner's lawyers, the commonwealth's attorney and his assistant. To the left of the picture on a platform sit the twelve jurors.

of cases that arise. In cases arising out of disputes over property, debts, and the like, the law provides that they must involve a certain amount of money in order for them to be brought before the circuit court. If a person is arrested for an offense against the law, he can be tried in the circuit court only when the offense is so serious that it may be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary of the State. Thus small cases and trials for petty offenses are left to the justice's courts.

3. *The City Courts.* In addition to the circuit court, every city of ten thousand inhabitants may have an additional court known as the *corporation court*. Those cities of the State with as many as thirty thousand inhabitants have a number of different courts, each with the power or jurisdiction to try cases of a certain kind prescribed by law. It is natural that many more cases should arise in large cities than in the counties; and the result is that whenever cities have grown to any size the Government recognizes the necessity for providing a special and elaborate system of city courts.

4. *The Supreme Court of Appeals.* At the top of the system of courts provided for Virginia stands the Supreme Court of Appeals. This court has the power to hear cases which may have been tried in the circuit courts and the various city courts, and which may be carried, in accordance with the law, to the highest court of the State for a last hearing.

**88. The judges and other officers.** The justices's courts are presided over by justices of the peace, elected by the people of the district in which they serve. All the other courts in the State, however, are presided over by judges. For each circuit court and for each city court there is one



judge chosen by the General Assembly for a term of eight years. The Supreme Court of Appeals consists of five judges chosen by the General Assembly for a term of twelve years each. It is provided that the judges in all of these courts shall be men trained in the law, either by having previously held a judicial position, or by having practiced law for a period of at least five years. It is provided also that their salaries shall not be increased or diminished during their term of office. This is in order to prevent the General Assembly from gaining any control over the honesty and impartiality of the judges of the State, by refusing to continue their salaries.

You may be surprised to learn that the judges of our courts hold office for periods of eight and twelve years while the Governor and other officers of the State are elected for only four years. There is a very vital reason for this. One of the principles which lie at the bottom of our judicial system is that every man, no matter how poor and obscure, shall be equal to any other man when he appears before the courts. If our judges were subjected to the control of political parties by reason of frequent elections, their decisions might sometimes be influenced by their desire for re-appointment. The object, therefore, of choosing the judges for long terms is that they may be separated from any control of politics, and that they may feel free to interpret the law with absolute impartiality.

**89. How the law proceeds.** You may perhaps wonder how one individual proceeds when he feels that it is necessary for him to call on the courts for assistance in maintaining his rights against some other individual. If he ascertains that the law is probably in favor of his claim, he usually places the matter in the hands of a lawyer, who brings it before the proper court at the proper time, and in accordance with the regulations prescribed for such proceedings. The other party concerned generally employs a

lawyer to represent him; and the matter is fought out between these lawyers in the presence of the court. The facts are all heard, the law is interpreted and applied, and a decision is rendered. Such a case as this is called a *civil suit*. You must understand that in such a suit no *person* is on trial.

In case an individual is arrested and accused of some crime, he usually employs, or else the Government gives him, a lawyer to represent his cause before the court. Opposed to this lawyer is an officer known as the *commonwealth's attorney*, who is himself a lawyer representing the community. It is his duty to bring out before the court all the facts that will help to show the guilt of the prisoner. You see, therefore, that we again have two lawyers struggling with each other in the presence of the court on opposite sides of the question to be decided. Such a case as this, in which a *person* is being tried for a crime of which he is accused, is called a *criminal case*. In any criminal case the Government itself, represented by the commonwealth's attorney, is one of the parties concerned. A man who has committed a crime has really committed an injury against the whole people of the community, and the Government must punish him if his guilt can be proved.

**90. Trial by jury.** You remember that in the beginning of our study we discussed the various operations of the Government which aim to protect the individual in his life and liberty. (See pages 21, 44.) And we mentioned the fact that when any member of a community is accused of crime, the Government must grant him certain rights in regard to his trial. Among these we spoke of his right to a trial by jury. What does this mean? It means simply that the individual who is called upon to defend his rights or himself in court has in all important cases the right to have a

decision on the facts of his case rendered by a group of men chosen from among his fellow-citizens. This group of men usually consists of twelve and is known as a jury. Trial by jury arose out of the notion that a man's fellow-citizens would be more apt to give him justice than would an officer of the Government. Hence, while it is the judge of the court who explains and interprets the law for the jury, it is the jury that decides upon the facts of the case and renders the verdict.

The right of trial by jury is one of our most sacred rights. We should cherish it and uphold it in every way possible. It is true that jury service is sometimes inconvenient; it may seriously interfere with a man's business. For this reason, many men seek to evade the law which requires them to serve on juries when they are called upon. These very men may some day find themselves at the mercy of a jury; they would then be eager for competent and intelligent jurors. We should look upon jury service as a duty that we owe to our community and to our fellowmen. We should not let it be said that in our community juries are frequently composed of men of no employment and of little ability.

**91. The grand jury.** In many important cases the law provides that before a person can be tried for an offense which he is supposed to have committed, he shall be *indicted* by a grand jury. This means that the evidence of his guilt shall be presented by the judge to a group of men consisting of not less than fifteen nor more than twenty-three. If this grand jury finds the evidence sufficient, the accused person is formally charged with the crime, or indicted, as it is called, and is held for trial. If the evidence is found to be insufficient, he is dismissed.

## QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Suppose a dispute arises between two persons over a debt, how is it usually settled? Suppose a man is arrested for stealing, who determines his punishment? Why are the courts necessary? How do they protect us from injustice?

2. Have you ever been in a court room? If so, describe it. Do you know the names of any justice of the peace in your neighborhood (or police justice)? Where is his court held? If a man is arrested for fighting in your community, before what court would he be taken?

3. If you live in a city, try to find out how many courts there are in your city and what they are called. If you live in a county, find out where the circuit court sits. Why is it called a circuit court?

4. Describe the system of courts in Virginia. Why are the judges appointed for long terms? Why may not the legislature increase or diminish their salaries?

5. What is the highest court in Virginia? How many judges sit in it? How are they appointed and for what term?

6. Explain how in every case, whether civil or criminal, there are lawyers on each side of the question. What is the duty of the commonwealth's attorney? Find out, if you can, who is the commonwealth's attorney in your community.

7. Explain what is meant by jury trial. Why is it a duty to serve on juries? How are we protected by the right of trial by jury?

## CHAPTER XIII

### HOW THE COUNTIES ARE GOVERNED

**92. What the county is.** Many of us cannot remember the first time that we ever heard of counties. In our geographies we learned that Virginia is divided into one hundred and one counties, each with its own name, and every one of us lives in some one of these counties. What do we mean then when we speak of a county? As we have seen (see page 97), certain matters of interest to the people can best be attended to by the different local communities. And although counties did not originate for local purposes, this is the reason why they exist to-day.

County Government dates back to a very early period in the history of England, in fact to a period when there was no king at all over the whole of England. When the settlers came over to America and established the colony of Virginia, they simply transplanted to Virginia the county form of local Government to which they had been accustomed in England. With some changes in its form, the county still exists among us for purposes of local Government. We shall see as we go on, the place that the county occupies in our system of Government. But first of all let us see why it was that the colonists adopted this kind of Government in preference to any other.

**93. How the geography of Virginia affected our Government.** You will doubtless recall that most of those who came over to Virginia at the time when the colony was in its infancy were attracted by the profits they hoped to make



out of the cultivation of tobacco. Many of them obtained large grants of land from the crown. When they reached the colony, they found that its shores, as you have often noticed, were indented by many navigable streams. The result was that each of these landowners, or planters, as they were called, was able to establish his plantation upon a large tract of land bordering on some stream. There he



THE COURT-HOUSE OF CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

cultivated tobacco on a large scale and shipped it to England. The vessels of the time, unlike modern vessels, did not require very deep water for navigation. They sailed up the stream and landed at the planter's private wharf, bringing him all sorts of manufactured articles, such as cloth, furniture, building materials, and farming implements from the mother country. In exchange for these he loaded the vessel with tobacco for sale in England.

You see, therefore, that Virginia was early split up into large plantations, and that the people lived far apart from one another. Now this fact had an important influence upon the kind of Government that developed in Virginia. You will perhaps understand this better if we turn for a moment to see what kind of Government developed among the New England settlers.

The people who settled New England came over to this country largely that they might enjoy religious freedom. They came, therefore, in congregations or groups rather than as individual adventurers. The climate and the geography of New England, unlike Virginia, did not permit them to separate and settle on large estates. They built their homes close around the church and schoolhouse. Under such circumstances it was natural for them to adopt a popular or democratic form of Government. All the inhabitants of each community met together and decided what their laws should be, and who should be their officers. This form of local Government still prevails in New England, and in a somewhat different form it has been adopted in the West. It is known as *township Government*, and the assembly of the people is called the *town meeting*.

Now it must be very evident to you that, with the people scattered widely apart as they were in Virginia, it would have been impossible for such a form of Government to have arisen. How could the people of a large county come together for the purpose of making laws? Instead of the township Government, the county form of Government was adopted in Virginia. A county covered a large area, including many plantations; and the people, instead of voting directly, chose representatives to determine all matters of local interest and concern. Let us see how the county is organized for the purposes of local Government.

**94. What powers the county may exercise.** It is important for you to bear in mind that the county may do only those things which the Constitution and the legislature of the State permit. Ordinarily the county attends to such matters as the building of roads and bridges, the assessment and collection of taxes, the care of the poor, the preservation of the peace by arresting those who violate the laws, the quarantining of contagious diseases, and the building of schoolhouses, the court-house, and other county buildings. These are not all of the duties which fall to the county Governments, but they are among the most important. Nor are all these things attended to wholly by the counties. For instance, the State Government assists the counties in the building of roads (see page 68), and it both assists and controls the counties materially in educational matters.

**95. The county board of supervisors.** Each county is divided into a number of districts known as *magisterial districts*. Once every four years, in November, the voting people in the district elect a *supervisor* of the district. The supervisors of the several magisterial districts of the county constitute together what is known as the *county board of supervisors*. The law gives to this board the power to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the county. It provides for the building and repairing of the roads and bridges, levies taxes for school and other purposes, borrows money, and builds the court-house, jail, and the poorhouse. Indeed this board has general control and direction of the affairs of the county. The board must meet at least twice a year, and may come together oftener if necessary.

**96. The county officers.** In addition to the board of supervisors, which may be called the legislative body of the county, there are a number of other officers elected by the

people for a term of four years, and one, the county clerk, for a term of eight years. Let us see what these officers are.

1. *The treasurer* of the county, as his name implies, is the officer who receives all the money due the county, and who pays out such amounts of it as he may be empowered by law to pay. All the taxes that are collected in the county are turned over to him, and he in turn transmits such portion of these taxes as may be ~~State~~ taxes to the State Treasurer at Richmond. 2. *The sheriff* is the officer who has charge of the county jail, and whose duty it is to assist in preserving the peace by arresting criminals. He attends the circuit court when it meets in his county and carries out the orders of the court. He is the most important executive officer of the county, having many other duties laid upon him by law. 3. *The commonwealth's attorney* is the law-officer of the county, whose duty it is to prosecute criminals tried before the circuit court. (See page 118.) He also assists the board of supervisors and the other county officers in the performance of their duties by giving them his opinion on questions of the law. 4. *The county clerk* is the officer whose duty it is to keep the records of the county. It is by means of these records kept by the clerk that owners of land in the county establish their claims to property. (See page 38.) The clerk also issues marriage licenses, and keeps a record of the marriages, births, and deaths in the county. 5. *The justices of the peace*, as we have already seen (see page 118), are the officers who hold the lowest courts in the State. As their name indicates, it is their duty to assist in the preservation of peace. Three justices are elected in each magisterial district. 6. *The constable's* chief duty is to arrest persons accused of violating the laws and otherwise to assist in



preserving order. 7. *The commissioner of revenue* for each magisterial district is the officer whose duty it is to make out the lists of personal property for taxation and to collect the taxes. There are also in every county a *surveyor*, a *superintendent of the poor*, one or more *coroners*, *land assessors*, and other minor officers, whose duties are prescribed by law. These assist in various ways in carrying out the scheme of county Government.

**97. The importance of county history.** There is scarcely a county in Virginia that has not produced its great men. Some of these men are only of local reputation; in many cases they have played important roles in the history of Virginia and the nation. Moreover, many counties have been the scenes of famous battles and other important incidents of our history. It ought to be our pride to know of these things. We should be eager to learn something of the history of our county and the share it has had in the history of the State. We should cherish the names of our great men and perpetuate their memory. Would it not be well if the public schools in every community were named after the great men of the locality?

### QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

**To the Teacher.** The teacher of rural schools should, if possible, elaborate the outline of county government contained in this chapter, seeking especially to localize the pupil's interest in the government of his own county. The following meager questions will naturally arouse more interest and discussion among county pupils than among city pupils. The exact opposite may be said of the following chapter.

1. In what county do you live? Describe its situation in the State. Try to find out something about its history: when was it settled, when did it become a county, how did it receive its name?
2. Explain how geographical conditions in Virginia gave rise to



the county form of local Government. What is meant by township Government? Where did it flourish and why? Why did it not develop in Virginia?

3. What are some of the powers which your county Government exercises? How is the county board of supervisors formed? What are its powers? What magisterial district do you live in? Find out who your district supervisor is. When was he elected? How long has he yet to serve? How often must the board meet?

4. Find out, if you can, who is the present treasurer of your county. The sheriff; commonwealth's attorney; clerk. How many justices of the peace are there in your district? Constables? Commissioners of revenue? How are these various officers chosen? What is their term of office? Which one serves for eight years?

5. What great men has your community produced? Which of them were of local, which of State, which of national reputation? What do you know of their lives? Are their names commemorated in any way in your community? Can you think of some simple ways by which they might be commemorated?

6. What important incidents of history have taken place in your community? Are these incidents commemorated? How?

## CHAPTER XIV

### HOW THE CITIES ARE GOVERNED

98. The growth of cities in Virginia. Sometimes you have perhaps wondered why no very large city has developed in Virginia. In other parts of the United States cities have in some cases grown to enormous proportions in a comparatively short time. In 1830, Chicago was almost a wilderness, while Richmond had a population of 16,060. To-day, the population of Chicago is approaching two millions, while that of Richmond is only in the neighborhood of one hundred thousand. How can we account for this slow development of cities in Virginia and the rest of the South?

We have already noted the fact that Virginia was settled in large plantations and that society was divided into three classes with the slaves at the bottom. (See page 52.) Under the direction of the white population these slaves made good farm laborers. They were not trained, however, for labor of a higher character; and while slavery existed, no large number of them could have been taught to run the complicated machinery used in manufacturing. As you know, people in cities do not expect to earn their living by farming. They support themselves by manufacturing and trading. It was impossible for the people of Virginia to establish large cities because the slaves could not profitably be employed in manufacturing industries. You see, therefore, how it was that slavery prevented the development of manufactures in the South and the consequent growth of

cities. Since the emancipation of the slaves, cities in Virginia, as well as in the rest of the South, have begun to grow more rapidly than formerly. But the whole South has been retarded in this development by reason of the terrible destruction that resulted from the War between the States. Moreover, it takes time to change a considerable portion of the population from agricultural to manufacturing pursuits.

In recent years cities have been developing very rapidly in Virginia. The population of Richmond increased 33 per cent between 1880 and 1900, that of Norfolk 112 per cent. Newport News in 1890 had a population of 4,449; in 1900 it had increased to 19,635. The population of the city of Roanoke has perhaps increased more rapidly in the last ten years than that of any other city in the State.

**99. City problems.** In the earlier part of our study we noticed that city Governments undertake many things for the people of city communities that are unnecessary in rural communities. It is hardly needful to explain why this should be the case. Where so many people live close to one another, they are forced to use the same streets, the same trolley cars, the same facilities for lighting their houses and getting water, as well as many other things in common. The Government must provide for the maintenance of these things for the common welfare of all.

As a result of these conditions, it has been found necessary to provide for the cities a different form of Government from that which is given to the counties. City Governments must be so organized that the cities can provide in many ways for the health, the welfare, and the happiness of their inhabitants. Streets must be laid out, paved, and kept clean. Parks must be provided, in order that the city may be beautified, and that its inhabitants may have con-

venient places for recreation. The police force must be maintained for the protection of life and property and for the enforcement of the laws. The streets must be lighted, water must be provided, fire departments maintained, a



CONGESTED TRAFFIC IN A CITY STREET

This street is so crowded with wagons and trucks that traffic is frequently blocked. Observe the obstructions placed along the sidewalks.

system of sewerage installed; schoolhouses, city halls, court-houses, jails, and poorhouses must be built. These and many other things the city must undertake. And as you may imagine, all these undertakings call for a compli-



cated system of government and many officers. Let us see in a general way how the cities of Virginia are governed.

**100. What is meant by the city charter.** Before the adoption of our present Constitution, the legislature was accustomed to grant to every city of the State a *special charter*. Each of these charters was a document providing in detail how the city Government should be organized, how the city laws should be made, the names and duties of its officers, and the powers which the city might exercise. Under these charters the form of Government in one city was in many respects quite different from that in another city, since the charters granted by the legislature were not always identical. By the terms of the Constitution of 1902, the legislature is restricted in its power to issue special charters to cities. The laws which the legislature now makes for cities must usually be general laws—that is, they must apply to all cities alike. Charters may still be granted; but because of these general laws, they must be similar in form. Existing cities, however, were permitted to retain their old charters in so far as they did not conflict with the Constitution itself.

The Constitution provides somewhat in detail for the organization and Government of cities. In the first place, it provides that no community shall become a city which has not at least five thousand inhabitants. In the working out of the plan of the city Government, as you will notice, there is an organization which corresponds very closely to the organization of the State Government which we have been studying. There is a law-making body, a group of executive officers, and in some cases special city courts.

**101. How the city laws are made.** City laws are known as *ordinances*. They are passed by the law-making body of the city under the powers granted by the Constitution and



the legislature. They relate, of course, only to the local affairs of the city. (See page 97.) Just as the law-making body of the State consists of two houses, so the law-making body of the city, or *city council*, as it is called, is divided into two houses. The lower and larger of these houses is known as the *common council*. The upper house is usually called the *board of aldermen*. For the purpose of electing these councilmen and aldermen, the city is divided into wards having as nearly as possible an equal number of inhabitants. The inhabitants of each ward are entitled to elect a certain number of councilmen and a fewer number of aldermen. In cities of less than ten thousand inhabitants, the passing of ordinances is not so important a matter as it is in larger cities. The Constitution, therefore, provides that such cities may have a law-making body consisting of only one chamber.

In order that a resolution may become an ordinance of the city, it must go through a process very similar to that of a resolution offered in the General Assembly. (See page 102.) It is frequently referred to an appropriate committee, and it must in every case pass both the lower and upper branch of the council. It is then sent to the mayor for his signature. If the mayor vetoes the resolution, it cannot become an ordinance except by a majority vote of two-thirds of the members of both chambers.

One of the most important duties that fall to the city council is the determining of what local taxes are to be raised for the purpose of carrying on the many operations of the city Government. And after this money has come into the city treasury, it is the duty of the council to apportion it among the various departments of the Government. There are many other important duties which these city law-makers are called upon to exercise.

Councilmen and aldermen are not paid for their services to the city. They are supposed to be public-spirited men who are willing to give a portion of their time to the management of the city's affairs. Unfortunately they are not always either public-spirited or honest. Shrewd and unprincipled politicians have sometimes been elected to city councils; they have used their positions for their own profit without regard to the city's interests. You can understand, therefore, how important it is for the voting people of every city to inform themselves in regard to those men who become candidates for the city council. It is the duty also of the best men of the community, the men who have made a success of life by honest means, the high-minded and well-informed men, to be willing to give a portion of their time, whenever it is possible, to assist in the Government of the city.

**102. The mayor and other executive officers of the city.** The position of the mayor in the city corresponds somewhat to that of the Governor in the State. He is the chief executive officer of the city and has many important duties and powers. As we have just seen, he has the power to veto all the ordinances passed by the city council. In addition to this, it is his duty to see that the other officers of the city and the departments of the city Government, like the fire department and the police department, attend properly to the duties laid upon them by law. And like the Governor (see page 110), he has the power to examine the books and records of the other city officers. In case he finds an officer negligent in his duty, he suspends him from office. You see, therefore, that the office of mayor in our cities is a most important one. It should be filled only by a high-minded, upright, and well qualified man.

The mayor is elected by the voters of the city for a term of four years. In most cities the people elect for the same term as the mayor a *city treasurer*, *commonwealth's attorney*, a *tax collector*, and *city sergeant*. In addition to these



THE CITY HALL, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

One of the handsomest Government buildings in the South.

officers elected by the people, the city council chooses other executive officers, such as the *chief of the fire department*, the *chief of the police department*, and the *city engineer*. The council usually chooses also the members of cer-

tain boards and commissions which direct the work of various departments of the city Government. Prominent among these are the school board, the police commission, and the fire commission. It is not necessary for us to examine in detail the duties of these various officers and boards. It is sufficient for us to know that each of them fills a very necessary place in the working out of the city Government.

You must bear in mind that ~~every~~ city in Virginia that existed before the adoption of our present Constitution has a special charter outlining its form of Government. These charters vary; all cities therefore, do not have exactly the same officers, nor do they exercise exactly the same powers.

**103. Difference between cities and towns.** Since cities are usually larger than towns, it is natural that they should have a more complicated form of Government. Towns are those communities in Virginia which have less than five thousand inhabitants, and which, at the same time, have been granted a distinct local Government. Of course every city and town is situated in some county. Over the cities the county has no control. The county board of supervisors cannot make regulations for any city within the county, nor do the county officers have any power within the city. Towns are permitted to have a simple form of Government for their local needs and to raise taxes for local purposes. They have a town council, a town mayor, and other executive officers. But they are also controlled by the county to some extent. When county taxes are levied, for instance, these taxes are collected in the towns as well as in the rural districts. This is the most important distinction between towns and small cities; towns are subjected to some control by the county, while cities are not.



## QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Try to find out the population of your city, or of the nearest city to you. Is its population said to be increasing? Can you see any evidences of the increase, such as the building of new residences or business houses? What natural advantages has your city? What attracts people to it?

2. Mention some of the things that city Governments provide that are not undertaken by county Governments. Why does this difference exist? Explain, then, why the city Government differs in form from that of the county.

3. Explain what is meant by a city charter. When were *special* charters granted to Virginia cities? Can the legislature grant a special charter today? What is meant by "general" city laws?

4. How does a resolution become an ordinance?

5. How is the city council organized? Find out, if you can, how many councilmen and aldermen there are in your city (or the nearest city to you). How many are chosen from each ward? How are they chosen? When are they next chosen? How long do they serve? How many wards has your city?

6. Find out who appoints firemen, policemen, street-cleaners in your city.

7. Mention all the officers of the city that you know, and find out how each is appointed. How are all the chief officers chosen?

8. What should be the qualifications of a councilman or alderman? What is the duty of the people in selecting these officers? What compensation does a good councilman get for his services?

9. If you live in a town, tell some of the things that your town Government undertakes. What officers does it have? How many members are there in the town council? What is the chief difference between towns and small cities?

10. Mention the names of all the present officers of your city or town that you can think of.



## CHAPTER XV

### WHO TAKES PART IN THE GOVERNMENT

104. Why the people of Virginia do not make laws directly. The simplest and most direct method of organizing the Government of a community is that in which the whole population of the community meets to make laws and choose officers. This form of Government is illustrated in the New England town meeting (see page 127) and is called *democratic*—a word which means Government by the people. Surely it is not difficult for you to see, however, that where county Government exists, as it does in Virginia, it is impossible for the whole people to come together in a single meeting to determine what their laws shall be. So also in the populous cities such a form of government would be impossible, for no hall could be found large enough to hold the whole population of the city; and if everybody in the city were allowed freely to express his own ideas upon each question that arose, certainly little would be accomplished. If such a form of Government is not practicable in counties and cities, it is all the more impossible when it comes to making laws for the whole State. Imagine the difficulty of attempting to assemble all the people of the State of Virginia in one place to make laws!

105. What we mean by representative Government. The people in Virginia, as in the other States of the Union, have solved the difficulty by what we call *representative* government. Instead of making laws directly themselves, the

people choose representatives to do this for them. That is why there is in each county a group of representatives known as the board of supervisors; and in each city, a city council; and for the State as a whole, a General Assembly. Each of these representative bodies has the power to make regulations for the people. Not only do the people choose their law-makers in this way, but, as we have seen, they also designate what officers are to execute these laws and what officers are to interpret them. This they accomplish either by direct election, as in the case of the Governor and many other officers, or by giving their representatives the power to choose other officers, as in the case of the judges. (See page 121.)

**106. Why all of us do not share in the Government.** Now the question arises: does every person in each community of Virginia have an equal share in choosing these representatives? In other words, does everybody in Virginia have the right to vote? For a great many reasons this is not the case; and some of them you can easily understand. It would not be expected, for instance, that the children of any community should have a share in selecting the officers of the Government. Nor are the women in Virginia permitted to vote at elections, although some of the States of the Union give them this right. Again, foreigners who have not yet become citizens of the United States, and citizens of other States, who may happen to be temporarily in Virginia at the time of an election, are not permitted to vote. But these are not the only classes excluded from a share in the Government.

It is a very unfortunate fact that there are grown men in Virginia who cannot read and write. This is a condition of affairs which we are rapidly overcoming by means of the efficient system of public education which is now

provided for the children of Virginia. Sometimes these illiterate people have only themselves to blame for their ignorance; and sometimes they have been pitifully unfortunate. But in any case the more intelligent people have thought that a man who cannot even read and write, and who must, in consequence, be intensely ignorant of everything that is going on in the world, is not fit to help in choosing officers for the conduct of the Government. The Constitution lays down certain qualifications that a man must have before he can be allowed to vote. Let us see what these qualifications are.

**107. Qualifications for those who vote.** Perhaps it will be well for us to classify the several qualifications which a man must possess in order to vote at elections in Virginia.

*1. Age, sex, and citizenship.* First of all, a person desiring to vote must be a man who is a citizen of the United States (that is, one who owes no allegiance to any foreign Government), and who has reached the age of twenty-one years.

*2. Residence.* It is required also that he shall have resided in Virginia for two years, and in the particular county, town, or city in which he offers to vote, for one year. For voting purposes the communities are divided into wards and precincts; and the law provides that a man offering to vote shall have resided in his precinct for at least thirty days.

*3. Registration.* Suppose a man who is not known in a particular community presents himself on the morning of an election and desires to cast his vote. It might be very difficult for the officers who have the election in charge to find out whether he really possessed the qualifications necessary for a voter. The Constitution therefore provides that the voting places, or *polls* as they are called, shall be opened for registration on certain days prior to the election. During this period, any person desiring to vote at the

election must present himself, prove his qualifications, and have his name properly enrolled upon the registration books. On the election day only those are permitted to vote whose names are to be found in these books. 4. *The poll-tax.* Every male resident of the State over twenty-one years of age is required to pay, under the present law, a yearly poll tax of \$1.50. No man can vote at any election who has not paid all the poll taxes assessed against him for three years previous to the election, but old soldiers are excepted from this provision. 5. *Education.* When a man presents himself for registration, he is required to make his application in his own handwriting. This qualification is laid down in order that votes shall be cast only by those men who have sufficient education to enable them at least to write.

These qualifications for voters were laid down in the Constitution of 1902, and their terms are strictly enforced. Previous to this time the qualifications were less rigid, and the officers were somewhat lax in enforcing them. The result of this change has been that the number of voting people in the State has been greatly reduced in the last few years. While this is in some respects unfortunate, yet it has decided advantages. In the first place, it makes the vote of the people a much more intelligent one, because the privilege is granted only to those who have these elementary qualifications. In the second place, it gives those who at present do not possess the necessary qualifications something to strive for. In one way or another, you see, a man must show that he is sincerely interested in the Government before he is permitted to vote. These qualifications help to shut out the vote of that class of people who never think about the affairs of the Government until the morning of election, and then go to the polls without any idea of how they ought to vote.

**108. Places of election.** As we have already seen, every county is divided into magisterial districts and every city

into wards. Usually these districts or wards are also divided into precincts. In each precinct there is one place at which votes may be cast at any election. These voting places are usually advertised so that every voter may know where he must go to register and later to cast his vote. In charge of these places are certain *officers of election* appointed in accordance with the law. These officers first examine the books and determine whether a person desiring to vote is properly registered. If his registration proves to be satisfactory, they then permit him to cast his vote.

**109. How the votes are cast.** In the early days of our history it was the custom, when voters went to the polls, to read them the names of the candidates for office and to ask them which candidate they desired to vote for. Thereupon the voter would call the name of the candidate of his choice. Under such a system everybody knew how everybody else voted. The result was that men could not always vote with independence, because of what other people might think of them. They might be made to suffer in some way for voting as they thought best.

Today, however, we have a wholly different system. It is usually impossible for anybody to know how anybody else votes. When a person goes to the polls, he is given a slip of paper called a *ballot* with the names of the different candidates printed on it. He then retires, usually to a booth where no one else is permitted, and with a pencil he draws a line through the names of those for whom he does not desire to vote. He folds his ballot and sees that it is deposited in a sealed *ballot box*. None of these ballots are examined until the election is closed. You see, therefore, that it is impossible for one voter to tell how any other voter has cast his ballot.



The election usually lasts for one day, from sunrise to sunset. At its close the ballot boxes are opened and the ballots counted. The count, or *return* as it is called, is then sent to the county board or city board appointed for that purpose, and these boards add up the returns from the various voting precincts. In case the election is for State officers, these local boards send their returns to the *Board of State Canvassers*, who add the returns for the whole State and announce the result of the election.

**110. Our duty toward the Government.** There was a time in the early history of our country when every man of intelligence and culture looked upon it as a duty and a privilege to take some active part in the Government. Nearly all the truly great men were politicians. Government and politics was the field in which any ambitious young man sought to make a name for himself. Today the attitude which most men assume toward politics is quite different. Many noble men think it beneath them "to dabble in politics." In consequence, they sometimes permit the affairs of the Government to be directed by low political bosses and shrewd schemers who have only their own interests at heart. Nothing can be more hurtful to any community than this attitude which many good men assume. Of course, today it is impossible for every man to enter politics. It is not even desirable. But every man should be interested in all the undertakings of the Government, and this means that he should be interested in politics.

He should keep himself, through the newspapers at least, thoroughly in touch with what is going on. He should try to learn which of two men desiring a particular office is the more honest and the more capable. He should lend his influence in private conversation, and if need be in public, to keep bad men out of office. In every way possible he should further the best interests of his community

through the Government. Not only this, but the best men of the community should not hold themselves aloof from the service of the Government. You may perhaps think that there are usually plenty of men desiring office. As a matter of fact, this is true; but frequently none of them are the right sort of men for public office, and it is sometimes difficult to get better men to see that it is their duty to serve. The great hope of any State is that its more intelligent men will be wide awake to every movement which concerns the welfare of their community and State, and that whenever it is possible they will use their influence and give their services to the cause of good Government.

We should all feel that the Government is a part of us. It undertakes to do for us many things which we cannot do for ourselves—that is to say, the whole people of any community, acting together through the Government, undertakes to do these things. If then, the good people and the intelligent people of the community refuse to take part in the Government, how can we hope that the best interests of the whole community will be served?

### QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. What do we mean by democratic Government? Would it be possible in your community for the people to make their laws directly? How are the laws made? Who makes the laws for the whole State? What kind of Government do we call this? Why?

2. Explain how a man shares in the Government by voting. Why do not children have this right? Women? Foreigners? Citizens of other States? Insane people?

3. Why does the Constitution require that a voter shall be able to write? Should an illiterate man be intrusted to hold office? To choose officers? Why?

4. Mention all the qualifications for voters in Virginia. Take each of these qualifications separately, and tell whether you think it is necessary or unnecessary, and why.

5. Find out, if you can, how many precincts there are in your district or ward. In what precinct do you live? Find out where the voting place of your precinct was located at the last election.

6. Explain the old method of voting. Explain how the votes are cast today. What was accomplished by the change from the old method? What is the ballot? The ballot box?

7. What is meant by registration? Why is it necessary?

8. Explain how it is the duty of every man to be interested in politics. To whom does the Government belong? Explain how the Government is a part of us. What is our duty toward it? How will we suffer if we fail in this duty?

## CHAPTER XVI

### POLITICAL PARTIES

111. **What political parties are.** All of you have doubtless heard of political parties—the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, for instance. What do we mean by political parties, and how did they come to be formed? Political parties have existed in the United States almost from the beginning of our history as a nation. In President Washington's administration the people of the country began to divide into two great classes according as they believed that the national Government should exercise wide powers under the newly adopted Constitution, or that it should exercise only those powers that were expressly granted to it. These classes were known as political parties and were called at first Federalists and Anti-federalists. From that day to this, political parties have existed in the United States. New parties have arisen and died; old parties have changed their names, or retaining their names, have changed their policies; but on questions of politics, the people have always been divided into parties.

Indeed, wherever the people share in the Government of a country, parties are sure to spring up. Those people who believe that the Government should do this or that thing must act together; and those who oppose them must also act together. In this acting together political parties originate.

We sometimes hear a man of one party vigorously denounce the other party; and sometimes, too, we hear men

regret that there are any parties at all. But parties are invaluable aids to good Government. They watch each other closely. If a party in control of the Government fails to make wise laws, or to choose good officers, the other party will surely find it out, and perhaps at the next election will succeed in defeating the party in power. Parties help to keep alive our active interest in the affairs of Government and exert a controlling influence over the action of our law-makers and officers.

**112. How parties are organized.** If a party is well organized, it can more easily and more successfully get its candidates into office. This organization is accomplished by means of committees. In every party there is a State committee having general control over the affairs of the party, and in addition there are local committees in the different counties and cities of the State. These committees arrange for political meetings and for addresses to be delivered by party leaders and candidates for office. They stir up general interest in the election and in the affairs of the Government, and seek to draw out as large a vote for their own party as possible. They also determine many important questions in regard to the method of choosing candidates. You must not think, however, that these party committees are a part of the Government. Political parties are merely organizations of the people for the purpose of controlling the Government; they are not a part of the Government.

**113. Party conventions and primary elections.** Suppose that one political party in the State has many more voters than another party; and suppose that in the larger party there are many candidates seeking, for instance, the office of Governor, while in the smaller party there is only one candidate. The larger party would probably divide its vote among the various candidates. You can readily see



that this might cause the candidate of the smaller party, receiving the whole of his party vote, to be elected. Thus in the table below, candidate *D* would be elected over *A*, *B*, and *C*, although his party cast only half as many votes as the other.

LARGER PARTY	Vote for Candidate A 30,000	Vote for Candidate B 40,000	Vote for Candidate C 50,000	Total Vote 120,000
SMALLER PARTY	Vote for Candidate D 60,000			Total Vote 60,000

In order that the party vote may not be wasted in this manner, it is usually necessary to choose the party candidates for office before the election comes up. If one party is small as compared with the other, it accomplishes this by means of a *party convention*. If the election is for State officers, this convention is called by the State party committee and is composed of delegates from the various communities of the State.

When the party is large, however, candidates are usually chosen by means of *primary elections*. A primary election is an election held by the party for the purpose of nominating the candidates for office which the party desires to support at the general election which follows. You must bear in mind that a primary election is not really an election at all. It is only a *nomination* by the party. For instance, a certain man may be elected at the primary as the Democratic candidate for Governor. This means only that the members of the Democratic Party will vote for him in the

general election held a few months later, when he must stand against the Republican, the Prohibitionist, and perhaps other party candidates.

In any party primary the voters of the other party are not supposed to take part. Moreover, no one can vote unless he is qualified to vote at the next general election. (See page 143.)

**114. Local nominations.** In local elections—that is, county, town, and city elections—the local party committee usually decides whether candidates shall be chosen by a local convention or at a primary election. A man becomes a candidate for the party nomination by announcing his intention to the committee, and by paying a fee to assist in defraying the expenses of the primary.

### QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Try to find out which political party is the stronger in your community. Are most of your county or city officers Democrats or Republicans? Were they nominated for office at a primary? Were they nominated by a convention? If not, why not?

2. To what political party does the present Governor and the other State officers belong? How were these officers nominated? Explain why the primary election was necessary for their nomination. Explain, then, what you mean by a primary election.

3. Who may vote at a primary election? Is the primary really an election at all?

4. How do political parties help to create good Government? Are they a part of the Government?

5. Explain how political parties are organized. Why is it necessary for them to organize? What powers and duties have the party committees? Find out, if you can, what party committees there are in your community.

6. Explain why it is necessary for parties to choose candidates before the election. What would be the probable result if they did not do so?

## CHAPTER XVII

### VIRGINIA AND THE NATION

In the preceding chapters we have seen, first of all, what the Government in Virginia does to assist the people living in the various communities of the State. In the second place, we have seen something of how the Government is organized for the accomplishment of these purposes, and through what officers, State and local, it operates.

You must not think, however, that the State, and the county or city Government under which you live are the only Governments to which you owe obedience. Virginia, as you know, is one of forty-six States which together make up the whole United States. Over all these States there is one *national government*, with its seat at Washington, which makes laws and has officers to execute and interpret them throughout the entire Union.

The United States Government, or the national Government, as we call it, also has its Constitution, in which are laid down the powers that this Government may lawfully exercise. No State can interfere with the national Government in the exercise of its powers, nor can the national Government exercise any of the powers reserved to the States.

In general we may say that the United States Constitution gives to the national Government the right to exercise only those powers which are of concern to the whole people of this country. Among these powers are the regulation of foreign affairs, the making of treaties, the regula-

tion of foreign commerce, of commerce between States, of affairs with the Indians, and the maintenance of an army and navy. Over none of these affairs has the State of Virginia any power whatever.

Yet the State helps in the carrying on of the national Government in a number of ways. For instance, the people of the States elect Congressmen for the national legislature, and the State legislatures choose the national Senators. The people of the several States also elect the President of the United States.

It is not the purpose of our study here to inquire into the powers, the organization, and the operation of the national Government. This will be reserved for your later study.

It is true that the Government of our State and community comes in many ways closer to us than the Government of the nation. It undertakes to do for us so many more personal things—things that we see about us every day. But while we as Virginians should cherish a loyalty and devotion to our noble State, we should bear in mind that we are also citizens of the United States; and we should take pride in rendering a loyal patriotism to the nation of which we are a part.

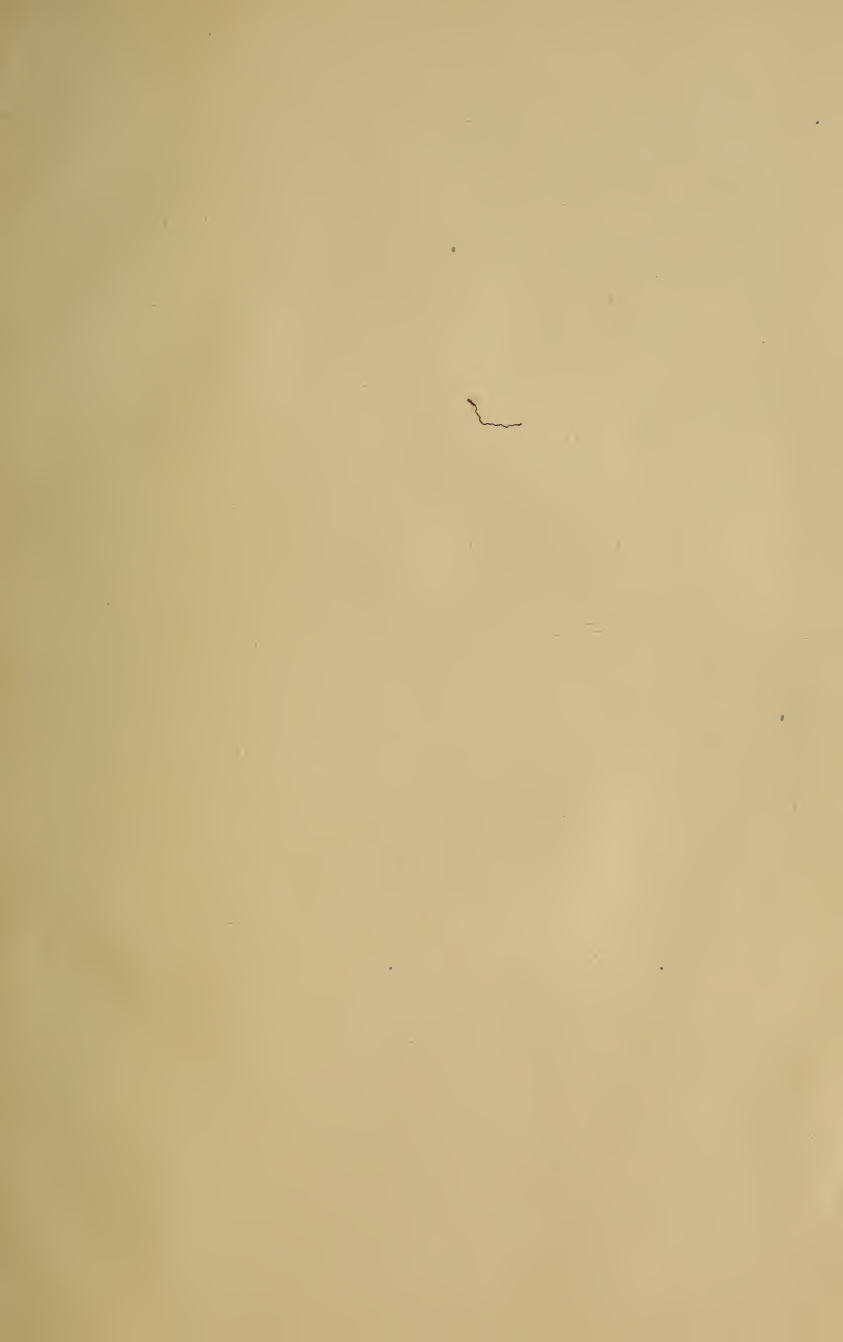
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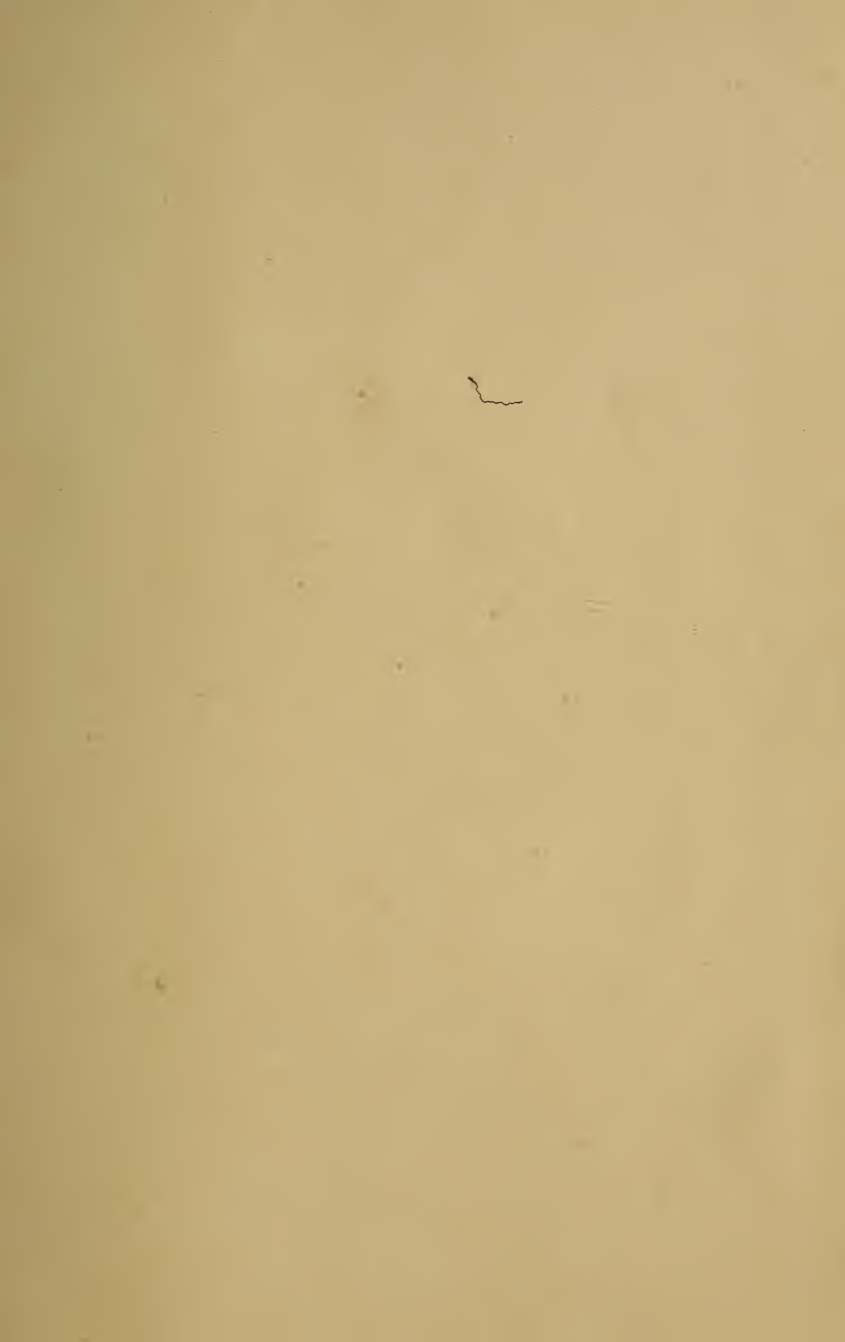
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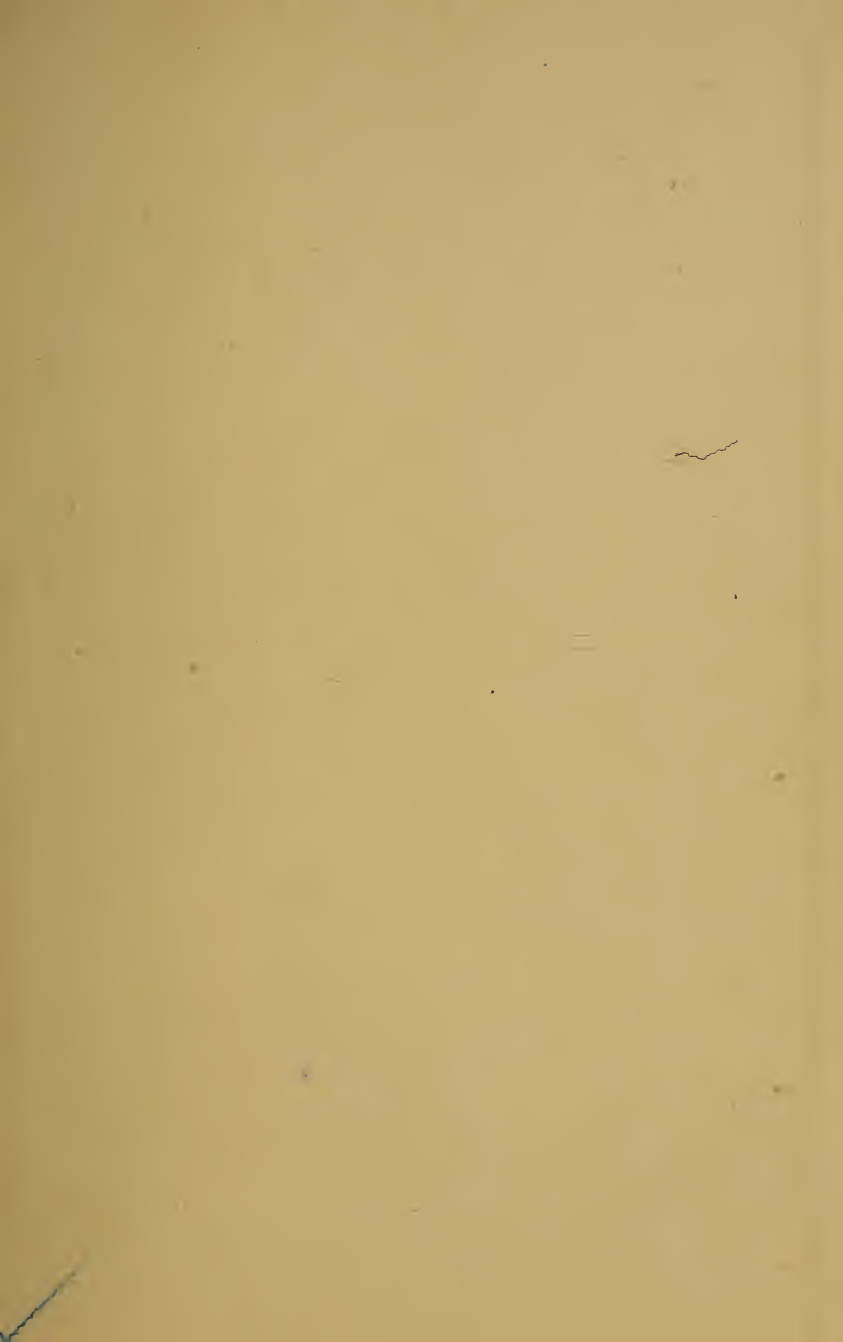




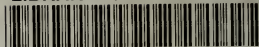


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